



## **WELCOME TO V-DAY'S 2005 PRESS KIT**

Thank you for taking the first step in helping to stop violence against women and girls. V-Day relies on the media to help get the word out about the global reach and long-lasting effects of violence. With your assistance, we hope your audience is compelled to take action to stop the violence, rape, domestic battery, incest, female genital mutilation, sexual slavery—that many women and girls face every day around the world.

Our goal is to provide media with everything you need to present the most interesting and meaningful story possible. If you require additional information or interviews, please contact Susan Celia Swan at [press@vday.org](mailto:press@vday.org).

In addition, you can find all of our press releases (including the most recent) posted at our site in the Press Release section.

Thank you again for joining V-Day in our fight to end violence against women and girls.

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Media & Communications  
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914-835-6740

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Contact: Susan Celia Swan (212) 253-1823 [press@vday.org](mailto:press@vday.org)

**V-DAY 2005: VAGINA WARRIORS LEAD THE WAY  
FIRST BOOK - *VAGINA WARRIORS* - FEATURING CELEBRITIES AND ACTIVISTS TO BE  
RELEASED BY BULFINCH PRESS FEBRUARY 2005**

**V-DAY'S EMMY AWARD WINNING DOCUMENTARY *UNTIL THE VIOLENCE STOPS*  
TO BE RELEASED FOR RENTAL BY NETFLIX AND FOR PURCHASE BY DOCURAMA  
IN EARLY 2005**

**V-DAY 2005 SPOTLIGHT ON WOMEN OF IRAQ: UNDER SIEGE**

**MORE COLLEGE V-DAY BENEFITS THAN EVER!**

*Thousands of community-based V-Day benefit events of *The Vagina Monologues* to take place  
February - March 2005 in the U.S. and around the world*

December 9, 2004 – Today V-Day, the global movement to end violence against women and girls founded by playwright/performer Eve Ensler, announces its 2005 theme: Vagina Warriors Lead The Way. The theme will resonate throughout the movement's campaigns, grassroots events, first book, DVD release, and overall communications. It will expand on V-Day's 2004 season during which over 2300 V-Day benefit events were presented by volunteer activists around the world, educating millions of people about the issue of violence against women and girls, raising \$6 million and benefiting over 1000 organizations.

**V-DAY 2005: VAGINA WARRIORS LEAD THE WAY**

By building on the theme of Vagina Warriors in 2005, V-Day seeks to emphasize the leadership qualities of these women and men who work daily to end violence against women affecting real change in their communities. This year's theme is inspired by the first hand reports of V-Day activists who have become leaders in their communities often on a national level and by the recent V Is For Vote campaign in which thousands of V-Day activists mobilized, registered and got out the vote in the U.S., determined to make Violence Against Women a central issue in the election.

Leadership examples include Agnes Pareyio, founder of the V-Day Safe House for the girls in Kenya, who was recently named Deputy Mayor of her town; Yanar Mohammed, head of the Organization of Women's Freedom in Iraq, who works for Iraqi women's security, safety and well being despite death threats and complete lack of security; Maliali Joya, a 25 year old elected representative to 2003's Loya Jirga (Grand Council) convention in Kabul, who spoke out against the inclusion of local "war criminals" in Afghanistan's new constitution; and Kristin Tyler, a student at Amherst High School (Amherst, MA) who became the center of national media attention by putting on V-Day at her high school.

This year, up to three women and men who are making a difference, changing the paradigm and perception of violence against women and leading their community to a better future will be selected and honored as Vagina Warriors at V-Day 2005 benefits.

**OVER 2000 BENEFITS IN 940 COMMUNITIES IN 42 COUNTRIES, AND GROWING**

While event registration continues, at this time there are V-Day 2005 benefit productions of *The Vagina Monologues* currently being planned in over 940 cities and colleges around the world, with over 2000 events to attend in 42

countries from February – March 2005. 619 V-Days are slated on college campuses, the most in V-Day's history, and 328 V-Day's are slated in cities, and the number continues to grow. To date, locations include Romania, Uzbekistan, Senegal, Czech Republic, Greece, Honduras, Malaysia, University of Guam, Guam; Delhousie University Halifax, Nova Scotia; University of Louisville, Louisville, Kentucky; Pepperdine University, Malibu, California; Ruhr-University Bochum, Germany; Rhodes University, South Africa; University of Skovde, Sweden; Australian National University, Canberra, Australia; Fudan University, Shanghai, China; University of Utah, Salt Lake City, Utah; Lebanese American University, Lebanon; and Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, Jerusalem, Israel.

In 2005, outreach will further expand and continue via Africa, Asia and the Middle East as V-Day Special Representative Hibaaq Osman relocates to Cairo, Egypt where she is launching the Karama program in the Middle East and Africa. *Karama* is an Arabic word meaning dignity and self-respect, the essence of V-Day's partnerships getting underway in 2005 in Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, Algeria, Morocco, Sudan and Tunisia. Over the next three years, V-Day will supply financial and technical support for the regional and national movements working to end violence against women and girls in the Middle East and North Africa. In addition, V-Day has just concluded strategic planning meetings with groups from seven Asian countries in Seoul, Korea for an upcoming global V-Day campaign to bring justice to the Comfort Women.

### MULTIMEDIA 2005

#### **First Book: Vagina Warriors**

V-Day will release its first book, published by Bulfinch, in February 2005. *Vagina Warriors* is a collaboration between V-Day founder Eve Ensler and world-renowned photographer Joyce Tenneson, whose *Wise Women* changed the way people look at women and aging. The book features Ensler's essay "Vagina Warriors: An Emerging Paradigm, An Emerging Species" alongside Tenneson's portraits of V-Day activists, many of them well-known celebrities, with powerful statements and quotations from the subjects. The celebrities featured include Glenn Close, Rosario Dawson, Jane Fonda, LisaGay Hamilton, Salma Hayek, Rosie Perez, Isabella Rossellini, Gloria Steinem, Marisa Tomei and numerous others.

Bulfinch Press, Time Warner Book Group; February 2005. Price: \$40.00 Hardcover/\$19.95 FPT Paperback.

#### **First DVD: Until The Violence Stops**

V-Day's Emmy award-winning documentary *Until The Violence Stops* will be released on DVD by Netflix with additional scenes and content added including segments on Juárez, Mexico and Afghanistan. The documentary world premiered at the 2004 Sundance Film Festival and broadcast premiered on Lifetime Television in February. It has been screened at the Amnesty International Film Festivals in Amsterdam and Vancouver, as well as at the Miami and Maui Film festivals. In September, Toni Childs, David Ricketts, and Eddie Free received the 2004 Emmy award for "Best Original Song" for "Because You Are Beautiful" and in November, the film won top honor – the Gold Audience Award - at the Amnesty International Film Festival in Vancouver.

*Until the Violence Stops* follows the grassroots impact of V-Day in five international communities while exposing the pervasive and cultural forms of violence that women experience all over the world. Directed by Abby Epstein, the story begins at a star-studded V-Day benefit at Harlem's Apollo Theater and travels to regional events in Ukiah California, the Philippines and Pine Ridge Indian Reservation, culminating in the opening of the first V-Day Safe House for girls in Kenya. What emerges is an alternately devastating and hopeful look at the global and grassroots efforts in motion to stop violence against women and girls. Featuring appearances by Tantoo Cardinal, Rosario Dawson, Eve Ensler, Jane Fonda, LisaGay Hamilton, Salma Hayek, Rosie Perez, and Isabella Rossellini among others.

Netflix will release the DVD for rental beginning January 11, 2004 via <http://www.netflix.com>. The DVD will be available for purchase beginning February 8th from Docurama, <http://www.docurama.com>, or wherever fine DVDs are sold. Price: \$26.95.

### **V-DAY 2005 SPOTLIGHT: WOMEN OF IRAQ UNDER SIEGE**

Each year, V-Day spotlights an issue to raise awareness and funds on a worldwide scale via targeted media and the Worldwide and College Campaigns. Organizers of V-Day benefits in the U.S. and around the world are asked to address the spotlight at their events and to donate 1-10% of their event proceeds to the issue. The 2004 Spotlight:

Missing and Murdered Women of Juárez has raised over \$175,000 to date, garnered worldwide media coverage via the March on Juárez, and generated numerous feature articles on the issue.

For V-Day 2005, the spotlight is the Women Of Iraq: Under Siege. Since the US occupation and regime change in Iraq, women have lost more freedom than they've gained. Incidents of rape and abduction by organized gangs has increased fear of sexual violence, deterring women from returning to work or seeking employment and families from permitting their daughters to go to school. Victims refrain from contacting the police or hospitals, for fear of being killed for bringing shame on family honor. Armed conservative religious groups are pressuring schools and workplaces to require women and girls to wear the veil under threat of acid attack or abduction. Girls' enrollment and attendance is on a steep dive across the country. Lack of jobs and security for women in general has forced some to resort to prostitution, at grave risk of honor killing.

Even under these conditions there are a few beacons of change and hope. Several Iraqi women's organizations are braving the hostile climate and death threats to demand women's representation in public bodies and are working to protect women on the ground. V-Day's website – [vday.org](http://vday.org) - will feature a Spotlight section with articles, resources, and dispatches from women on the ground beginning in January.

For the latest on the V-Day 2005: Vagina Warriors Lead The Way schedule of events and campaigns, visit [vday.org/events](http://vday.org/events). V-Day's 2005 sponsors and NYC events will be announced in early January.

#### **About V-Day:**

V-Day is a global movement to stop violence against women and girls. V-Day is a catalyst that promotes creative events to increase awareness, raise money and revitalize the spirit of existing anti-violence organizations. V-Day generates broader attention for the fight to stop violence against women and girls, including rape, battery, incest, female genital mutilation (FGM) and sexual slavery.

Through V-Day campaigns, local volunteers and college students produce annual benefit performances of *The Vagina Monologues* to raise awareness and funds for anti-violence groups within their own communities. In 2004, over 2000 V-Day benefit events were presented by volunteer activists in the U.S. and around the world, educating millions of people about the reality of violence against women and girls.

Performance is just the beginning. V-Day stages large-scale benefits and produces innovative gatherings, films and campaigns to educate and change social attitudes towards violence against women including the documentary *Until the Violence Stops*; community briefings on the missing and murdered women of Juárez, Mexico; the December 2003 V-Day delegation trip to Israel, Palestine, Egypt and Jordan; the Afghan Women's Summit; the March 2004 delegation to India; the Stop Rape Contest, the Indian Country Project, and Love Your Tree.

In Africa, the Middle East, and Asia, V-Day commits ongoing support to build movements and anti-violence networks. Working with local organizations, V-Day provided hard-won funding that helped open the first shelters for women in Egypt and Iraq, sponsored annual workshops and three national campaigns in Afghanistan, convened the "Confronting Violence" conference of South Asian women leaders, and donated satellite-phones to Afghan women to keep lines of communication open and action plans moving forward. Beginning Fall 2004 from Cairo, V-Day will work in-depth to build networks ending violence against women and girls in Egypt, Sudan, Morocco, Tunisia, Algeria, Jordan, Syria, and Lebanon.

The V-Day movement is growing at a rapid pace throughout the world, in 76 countries from Europe to Asia, Africa and the Caribbean, and all of North America. V-Day, a non-profit corporation, distributes funds to grassroots, national and international organizations and programs that work to stop violence against women and girls. In its first year of incorporation (2001), V-Day was named one of Worth Magazine's "100 Best Charities." In seven years, the V-Day movement has raised over \$25 million.

The 'V' in V-Day stands for Victory, Valentine and Vagina.

<http://www.vday.org>

## ABOUT V-DAY

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### V-DAY'S MISSION

**V-Day** is an organized response against violence toward women

**V-Day** is a vision: We see a world where women live safely and freely.

**V-Day** is a demand: Rape, incest, battery, genital mutilation, and sex slavery must end now.

**V-Day** is a spirit: We believe women should spend their lives creating and thriving rather than surviving or recovering from terrible atrocities.

**V-Day** is a catalyst: By raising money and consciousness, it will unify and strengthen existing anti-violence efforts. Triggering far-reaching awareness, it will lay the groundwork for new educational, protective, and legislative endeavors throughout the world.

**V-Day** is a process: We will work as long as it takes. We will not stop until the violence stops.

**V-Day** is a day. We proclaim Valentine's Day as V-Day, to celebrate women and end the violence.

**V-Day** is a fierce, wild, unstoppable movement and community. Join us!

**The Vulva Choir (list in formation)**

Rose Abdo	Fran Adams	Donna Air
Jessica Alba	Jane Alderman	Mary Alice
Kirstie Alley	Dorothy Allison	Maria Conchita Alonso
Rengin Altay	Christiane Amanpour	DianeAmos
Gillian Anderson	Susan Anton	Lysette Antony
Mina Anwar	Anne Archer	Jann Arden
Elizabeth Ashley	Jayne Atkinson	Mel B
Hetley May Bailey	Becky Ann Baker	Jillian Barberie
Barbara Barrie	Joy Behar	Dani Behr
Glynnis Bell	Jill Benett	Starla Benford
Polly Bergen	Kristie Berger	Suzanne Bertish
Dr. Bhaswati Bhattacharya	Anjali Bhimani	Mayim Bialik
Lisa Biello	Lauren Bishop	Karen Black
Nina Blackwood	Rachel Blanchard	Cate Blanchett
Rosa Blasi	Lisa Bonet	Lauren Booth
Wendy Braun	Erin Brockovich	Julie Brown
Tania Bryer	Brett Butler	Naomi Campbell
Caprice	Tantoo Cardinal	Carolee Carmello
Geneva Carr	Tia Carrere	Diahann Carroll
Lisa Nicole Carson	Nell Carter	Eliza Carthy
Kathleen Cavendish	Nicola Cavendish	Kathleen Chalfant
Melanie Chartoff	Carlyn Christianson	Hope Clarke
Ellen Cleghorne	Kate Clinton	Glenn Close
Jackie Clune	Michelle Clunie	Kathleen Cogan
Laurie Ann Coleman	Kim Coles	Didi Conn
Veanne Cox	Kim Crenshaw	Marcia Cross
Lynn Cullen	Cultural Heritage Choir	Sophie Dahl
Claire Danes	Joan Darling	Elyssa Davalos
Lolita Davidovich	Viola Davis	Rosario Dawson
Anne E. DeChant	Lea DeLaria	Babs DeLay
Ann Delisi	Sandra Dickenson	Ani DiFranco
Anita Dobson	Elisa Donovan	Shirley Douglas
Nora Dunn	Jenny Éclair	Eddie Torres Latin Dancers
Tracy Edwards	Jill Eikenberry	Linda Ellerbee
Tracee Ellis-Ross	Eve Ensler	Karen Esquivel
Susie Essman	Jennifer Estlin	Melissa Ethridge
Andrea Evans	Edie Falco	Kim Farber
Tovah Feldshuh	Jean Feraca	Doris Fields
Kim Fields	Sally Fingerett	Takayo Fischer
Calista Flockhart	Beth Flynn	Lara Flynn Boyle
Jane Fonda	Antonia Franceschi	Bonnie Franklin
Mo Gaffney	Teri Garr	Cynthia Garrett
Lannie Garrett	Ana Gasteyer	Gina Gershon
Marla Gibbs	Ronnie Gilbert	Robin Givens
Sharon Gless	Judy Gold	Tracey Gold
Whoopi Goldberg	Marga Gomez	Michelle Gomez
Chloe Goodchild	Hazelle Goodman	Jilly Goolden
Denyce Graves	Linda Gray	Melanie Griffith
Jasmine Guy	Jeanie Hackett	Jerry Hall
Julie Halston	Lisa Gay Hamilton	Donna Hanover
Estelle Harris	Mel Harris	Jackee Harry
Melissa Joan Hart	Teri Hatcher	Salma Hayek
Patricia Hearst	Katherine Helmond	Ruthie Henshall
Amy Hill	Julia Butterfly Hill	Dale Hodges
Lorri Holt	Janet Hubert	Amy Irving

Judith Ivey  
Carol Jenkins  
Kristin Johnston  
Erica Jong  
Carol Kane  
Sally Kellerman  
Margot Kidder  
Shirley Knight  
Lisa Kreviazuk  
Swoosie Kurtz  
Amy Landecker  
Amel Larrieux  
Queen Latifah  
Vicki Lawrence Schultz  
Kristi Lee  
Lisa Leguillou  
Melissa Leo  
Lisa Ling  
Peggy Lipton  
Mary Lujan  
Maia Madison  
Wendie Malick  
Miriam Margolyes  
Kika Markham  
Marsha Mason  
Marin Mazzie  
Edie McClurg  
Maureen McCormick  
Natasha McElhone  
Elizabeth McGovern  
Marssie Mencotti  
Susan Messing  
Dannii Minogue  
Janice Mirikitani  
Rita Moreno  
Marty Moss-Coane  
Robbie Myrick Villalobos  
Belkys Nerey  
Cynthia Nixon  
Andrea Oliver  
Sherri Parker Lee  
Lori Petty  
Gina Phillips  
Christina Pickles  
Miriam Plotkin  
Rain Pryor  
Cheryl Lee Ralph  
Phylicia Rashad  
Jemma Redgrave  
Hollis Resnik  
Kate Rigg  
Jenn Robertson  
Shiva Rose  
Tracee Ellis Ross  
Mercedes Ruehl  
Susan Sarandon

Madhur Jaffrey  
Teryn Jenkins  
Rhodessa Jones  
Jenny Jules  
Julie Kavner  
Kathy Kelly  
Kimba  
E.L. Konigsburg  
Lisa Kron  
La Chanze  
Diane Lane  
Ali Larter  
Jill Laurens  
Helen Lederer  
Sheryl Lee Ralph  
Tracey Leigh  
Katthey Lette  
Maureen Lipman  
MaryLou Zieve  
Rebecca Luker  
Roma Maffia  
Dinah Manoff  
Juliana Margulies  
Andrea Martin  
Renee Matthews  
Andrea McArdle  
Catherine McCormack  
Audra McDonald  
Penelope McGhie  
Lonette McKee  
Idina Menzel  
Hazel Miller  
Kylie Minogue  
Shazia Mirza  
Alanis Morissette  
Julia Murney  
Kathy Najimy  
Phyllis Newman  
Mary Kate O'Connell  
Oprah  
Prathiba Parmar  
Bijou Phillips  
Mackenzie Phillips  
Rosemund Pike  
Annie Potts  
Kate Puckrick  
Sara Ramirez  
Lisa Ray  
Rondi Reed  
Gloria Reuben  
Alice Ripley  
Michelle Rodriguez  
Jacqueline Roseborough  
Isabella Rossellini  
Barbara Rush  
Julia Sawalha

Sakina Jaffrey  
Amy Johnson Boyle  
Sarah Jones  
Patricia Kalember  
Lainie Kazan  
Leila Kenzle  
Beverley Knight  
Chantal Kreviazuk  
Elvira Kurt  
Ricki Lake  
Jane Lapotarie  
Sanaa Lathan  
Josie Lawrence  
Joie Lee  
Kimora Lee Simmons  
Tsidii LeLoka  
Jenifer Lewis  
Rebecca Lipson  
Amy Love  
Ali MacGraw  
Ann Magnuson  
Sonia Manzano  
Mariposa  
Angie Martinez  
Debi Mazar  
Rue McClanahan  
Mary McCormack  
Mary McDonnell  
Kelly McGillis  
Sarah McLaughlin  
S. Epatha Merkerson  
Hayley Mills  
Soraya Mire  
Erin Moran  
Amy Morton  
Brittany Murphy  
Olivia Negrón  
Thandie Newton  
Sandra Oh  
Joan Osborne  
Rosie Perez  
Christina Phillips  
Michelle Phillips  
Tonya Pinkins  
Stefanie Powers  
Charlotte Rae  
Helen Raptis  
Rayel  
Jennifer Eplett Reilly  
Jolie Richardson  
Doris Roberts  
Peggy Roeder  
Rhonda Ross  
Amy Rowell  
Winona Ryder  
Rep. Jan Schakowsky

**Annabella Sciorra  
Michele Shay  
Carolyna Skywalker  
Sonja Smits  
Valerie Steele  
Amy Stiller  
Trudie Styler  
Meera Syal  
Victoria Tennant  
Lisa Tharps  
Harriet Thorpe  
Marisa Tomei  
Nancy Travis  
Rita Tushingham  
Joan Van Ark  
Lauren Velez  
Nina Wadia  
Jessica Walter  
Dawn Wells  
Lynn Whitfield  
JoBeth Williams  
Rita Wilson  
Susan Yerkes  
Mary Lou Zieve  
Eve  
Roseanne  
Amber Valetta**

**Melody Thomas Scott  
Brooke Shields  
Amy Smart  
Phoebe Snow  
Gloria Steinem  
Elizabeth Streb  
Sweet Honey in the Rock  
Holland Taylor  
Judy Tenuta  
Marlo Thomas  
Linda Tillery  
Lily Tomlin  
Sandra Tsing-Loh  
Alanna Ubach  
Amy Van Dyken  
Robbie Myrick Villalobos  
Marcia Wallace  
Kerry Washington  
Natalie West  
Dar Williams  
Kimberly Williams  
Kate Winslet  
Z Star  
Daphne Zuniga  
Free  
Ulali  
Zoya**

**Lily Shaw  
Gail Shister  
Lois Smith  
Senator Jackie Speier  
Julia Stiles  
Nadine Strossen  
Loretta Swit  
Regina Taylor  
Mary Testa  
Lea Thompson  
Charlene Tilton  
Angelica Torn  
Tamara Tunie  
Sarah Underwood  
Joyce Van Patten  
Kathy Wade  
Mary Walsh  
Chloe Webb  
Lillias White  
Jacqueline Williams  
Ann Wilson  
Hattie Winston  
Kim Zachary  
BETTY  
Mikveh**



## QUOTE SHEET

“Best International Feminist Organization”

*Village Voice 10/7/04*

“Now, it's not just a play. With violence against women a key Monologues theme, groups that put on a benefit performance donate proceeds to anti-violence charities such as rape crisis centers and women's shelters.”

*USA Today 2/3/04*

“It's a pretty ambitious agenda. But she might be the woman to do it--after all, there aren't many people who can claim to have built an international non-profit organization, raised \$14 million and changed the way people feel about the word "vagina" in five short years.”

*Chicago Sun Times 2/12/03*

“Pakistan is a country that badly needed a V-Day to raise awareness about violence against women.”

*The Friday Times (Pakistan) 4/3/03*

“Each performer donated her time to this cause, which raised awareness about violence against women- a subject seldom discussed in the Black community- and money for a number of non-profit organizations including African-American Task Force On Violence Against Women, Violence Intervention Program (VIP), The Dominican Women's Development Center, and Sakhi.”

*Essence.com 4/8/02*

“Four years ago, Eve Ensler founded V-Day to draw attention to the issue of violence against women. Today, her movement includes remarkable women around the world fighting to end sex abuse. Their personal stories of triumph over tragedy will inspire you to join the crusade...”

*Marie Claire 3/2002*

“The event celebrated the honored role of the vagina, a function that has shifted to be seen as something indecent.”

*The Jakarta Post 3/10/02*

“Eve Ensler wants to save the world...and don't even think of getting in her way.”

*New York Times Magazine 2/10/02*

“Despite the overwhelming statistics that would suggest victory is impossible, V-Day has grown exponentially, from an underground feminist event to a mainstream media one.”

*Chicago Sun-Times 11/28/01*

“Ms. Ensler's unorthodox views on philanthropy extend to the way she describes V-Day. She shuns the word charity, saying it connotes weakness instead of strength. She prefers to call V-Day a 'movement,' with her play a catalyst to raise money and awareness ... 'Eve thinks big,' Ms. Fonda said in a written statement, 'She is building an international movement without an organization in the traditional sense. No bureaucracy, no hierarchy, but a lot of love and humor.' “

*The Chronicle of Philanthropy 4/19/01*

“Therein lies the marvel of this V-movement, which has turned the stuff of the old take-back-the-night rallies into a hot ticket. Rape, domestic violence, even homelessness, when it happens to women - Ensler has transplanted these issues into a context that seems edgier and yet is somehow more palatable than the dread feminism. "Vaginism" doesn't get all muck up in messy issue like abortion or unequal pay. And though it often references lesbians - or their vaginas, anyway - the V-Movement doesn't get in the way of being attractive to men. ”

*The Village Voice 2/14/01*

“Eve Ensler's *The Vagina Monologues* is not just a play anymore. It's a social movement.”

*Los Angeles Times 10/16/00*

## **Eve Ensler**

EVE ENSLER is the Obie-Award-winning author of THE VAGINA MONOLOGUES, translated into over 35 languages and running in theaters all over the world. Her experience performing The Vagina Monologues inspired her to create V-Day, a global movement to stop violence against women and girls. Ms. Ensler's performance in THE VAGINA MONOLOGUES can be seen in the HBO original documentary of the play (2002).

Ms. Ensler has devoted her life to stopping violence, envisioning a planet in which women and girls will be free to thrive, rather than merely survive. THE VAGINA MONOLOGUES is based on Ensler's interviews with more than 200 women. With humour and grace the piece celebrates womens' sexuality and strength.

Ms. Ensler opened her newest work, THE GOOD BODY at the Booth Theatre on Broadway in November 2004. The play was presented this summer in a very successful engagement at ACT in San Francisco, following a workshop production at Seattle Repertory Theatre. Other plays include Necessary Targets, Conviction, Lemonade, The Depot, Floating Rhoda and the Glue Man, and EXTRAORDINARY MEASURES. THE VAGINA MONOLOGUES, THE GOOD BODY, NECESSARY TARGETS have both been published by Villard/Random House, as will Ms. Ensler's upcoming two new works, V-WORLD and I AM AN EMOTIONAL CREATURE.

Ms. Ensler is the recipient of a Guggenheim Fellowship Award in Playwriting, the Berrilla-Kerr Award for Playwriting, the Elliot Norton Award for Outstanding Solo Performance, and the Jury Award for Theater at the U.S. Comedy Arts Festival, as well as the 2002 Amnesty International Media Spotlight Award for Leadership and The Matrix Award (2002). She is Chair of the Women's Committee of PEN American Center and is an Executive Producer of WHAT I WANT MY WORDS TO DO TO YOU, a documentary about the writing group she has led since 1998 at the Bedford Hills Correctional Facility for Women. The film had its world premiere at the 2003 Sundance Film Festival where it received the "Freedom Of Expression" award and premiered nationally on PBS's "P.O.V." in December 2003. In May 2003, she received an Honorary Doctor of Letters degree from her alma mater, Middlebury College.

**TAKE ACTION TO HELP STOP VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS**  
**Tell your readers and listeners about these important action items**

⇒ **Sponsor an Event**

**The Worldwide Campaign** seeks to bring V-Day's message to the broadest possible audience. Through collaboration with organizations and communities at a grassroots level, the Worldwide Campaign hopes to make V-Day a catalyst for mobilizing communities to stop violence against women. To join the campaign, or for more information, please send your audience to [www.vday.org/world](http://www.vday.org/world).

Hundreds of colleges and universities around the world have presented benefit productions of "The Vagina Monologues" through the **College Campaign** to raise awareness and money to stop violence against women and girls. The proceeds from these events go back into the schools' communities to local organizations and programs that are already working to stop sexual violence. To join the campaign, or for more information, please send your audience to [www.vday.org/college](http://www.vday.org/college).

**Host an Event in Honor of V-Day**: If you want to create a fundraising event that is not a production of "The Vagina Monologues," you can creatively raise money for your local anti-violence organization and/or for V-Day. There are specific guidelines. For more information, please tell your audience to contact [sponsor@vday.org](mailto:sponsor@vday.org).

⇒ **Spread the Word**

V-Day is encouraging people all over the world to mark their communities as "**Rape-Free Zones**." Your audience can buy "Rape-Free Zone" ribbons, buttons, temporary tattoos and other "Rape-Free Zone" items at the V-Day online store at [www.eziba.com/vday](http://www.eziba.com/vday).

⇒ **Take Action**

**Volunteer**: Your audience can find information on how they can volunteer their time or donate resources to help stop violence by visiting [www.vday.org/volunteer](http://www.vday.org/volunteer).

**Donate**: Donate online at [www.vday.org/donate](http://www.vday.org/donate).

**Shop**: Help stop violence against women and girls while you shop! For more information, visit <http://www.vday.org/contents/action/shop>

## V-DAY COLLEGE AND WORLDWIDE CAMPAIGNS

The V-Day College and Worldwide Campaigns strive to empower women to find their collective voices and demand an end to the epidemic levels of violence and abuse in their communities around the world.

### **What is the V-Day College Campaign?**

The V-Day College Campaign invites members of college and university communities around the world to present V-Day benefit productions of “The Vagina Monologues” (e.g. V-Day Tulane, V-Day USC) on their campuses on or around V-Day (February 14<sup>th</sup>) to raise money and awareness to stop violence against women and girls. The proceeds from these events are donated directly to local organizations in their communities that are working to stop this violence. One of the goals of the College Campaign is to empower young people – the leaders, shapers and messengers of the future.

For more information about the V-Day College Campaign, visit: [www.vday.org/college](http://www.vday.org/college).

To sign up for the V-Day College Campaign, go to: [www.vday.org/vspot](http://www.vday.org/vspot).

### **Snapshot: College Campaign Statistics 1999-2004**

	<b>Year</b>	<b># schools</b>	<b># exposed<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>\$ raised<sup>2</sup></b>
	1999	66	20,000	N/A
	2000	150	5,457,450	\$122,312.34
	2001	230	13,646,550	\$397,904.86
	2002	514	5,909,332	\$1,848,580.73
	2003	602	7,583,448	\$1,983,434.97
	2004	624	5,591,762	\$2,137,345.11
	<b>TOTAL:</b>		38,208,542	\$6,489,578.01

<sup>1</sup>Number of people exposed to V-Day via College Campaign events as reported by College Campaign organizers

<sup>2</sup>Amount of money raised by College Campaign events as reported by College Campaign organizers

### **What is the V-Day Worldwide Campaign?**

The V-Day Worldwide Campaign invites communities around the world to present V-Day benefit productions of “The Vagina Monologues” (e.g. V-Day San Francisco, V-Day London) on or around V-Day (February 14<sup>th</sup>) to raise money and awareness to stop violence against women and girls. The proceeds from these events are donated directly to local organizations in the community that are working to stop this violence. For more information about the V-Day Worldwide Campaign, visit: [www.vday.org/world](http://www.vday.org/world).

To sign up for the V-Day Worldwide campaign, go to: [www.vday.org/signup](http://www.vday.org/signup).

### **Snapshot: Worldwide Campaign in 2004**

In 2004, 359 communities around the world participated in the Worldwide Campaign. Over US\$2 million was raised through these V-Day events and more than 60 million people were exposed to V-Day’s vision through the media and publicity efforts of the 2004 Worldwide Campaign organizers.

Worldwide Campaign Statistics – 2001 - 2004

	<b>Year</b>	<b># communities</b>	<b># exposed<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>\$ raised<sup>2</sup></b>
	2001	33	N/A	\$357,274.89
	2002	248	10,570,770	\$972,418.18
	2003	295	17,224,502	\$1,681,779.15
	2004	359	63,100,499	\$1,946,317.11
	<b>TOTAL:</b>			\$4,957,789.33

<sup>1</sup>Number of people exposed to V-Day via Worldwide Campaign events as reported by Worldwide Campaign organizers

<sup>2</sup>Amount of money raised by Worldwide Campaign events as reported by Worldwide Campaign organizers

## **SELECTED MEDIA COVERAGE**

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2004  
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Page 22: "Eve Ensler to Receive Award for International Peace Efforts" Annual Award to be Given by  
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Page 22: "Vagina Monologues' Becoming College Phenomenon" *USA TODAY*, March 2,  
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Page 24: "Eve Ensler and Amnesty International March on Juarez to Stop the Murder of Young  
Women" *Village Voice*, February 18<sup>th</sup>, 2004  
Page 25: "Violence: A Women's Issue, Sundance film follows play's rise from theater to worldwide  
Movement" *Salt Lake Tribune* (Salt Lake City, Utah), January 16, 2004  
Page 26: "Concerns Spread Over Juarez Murders" *Associated Press*, November 24, 2003  
Page 28: "V-Day Nairobi 2003 Event Saves a Shelter" *The East African Standard* (Nairobi), June 24,  
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Page 32: "Spreading the V word" *The Friday Times* (Pakistan), April 3, 2003  
Page 33: "Feminist forces invade Pakistan to win the battle of Vaginabad" *Sunday Times* (London),  
March 17, 2003  
Page 34: "V-Day Looks Beyond The Vagina Monologues" *Womens Enews*, February 14,  
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Page 35: "American Playwright Supports Families of Women Killed in Juarez" *Associated Press*,  
February 7, 2003  
Page 36: "Playwright Eve Ensler is on a Mission to Raise Consciousness" *The Jerusalem Post*, December 26, 2002  
Page 38: "When in Rome - A Report from the First V-World Summit" *The Nation*,  
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Page 41: "Haven for Kenyan Women Opens" *Associated Press*, April 9, 2002  
Page 42: "Eve Ensler Uses the V Word" *Newsweek*, February 18, 2002  
Page 43: "800 Events Promote V-Day from Antarctica to Zaire" *Women's Enews*,  
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Page 46: "V-Day Fights Rape, Battery" *San Francisco Examiner*, November 16, 2001  
Page 46: "V-Day Fights Rape, Battery" *San Francisco Examiner*, November 17, 2001

### **Women's conference unites activists, stars The Associated Press, September 12, 2004**

NEW YORK -- A weekend conference on women and power brought Afghan and Iraqi activists together with actresses Jane Fonda and Sally Field and "Vagina Monologues" playwright Eve Ensler.

The weekend-long Women and Power Conference was sponsored by the Omega Institute, a holistic health center, and Ensler's V-Day, a global movement to end violence against women and children.

Malalai Joya was a delegate to Afghanistan's constitutional council last year who received death threats after she called warlords at the council criminals. She said Sunday that holds out little hope that Afghanistan's Oct. 9 elections will be fair.

"I hope that the people of the world and the American people will help us lead the way to a democratic society with no warlords and no cruelty against women," Joya said through an interpreter at a press briefing in a midtown Manhattan hotel.

Fonda said it's important for women "to redefine and then own our power" because "we know that when enough of us do that it's going to create a critical mass and a tipping point. And everything depends on it."

Yanar Mohammed, who heads an Iraqi feminist group, said Iraqi women were better off before the U.S.-led invasion of their country.

"Of course there was this bloody dictatorship and nobody was free in the first place, but women were able to leave their houses," she said. "They were not assaulted in the streets, you were not pushed back in your house because you were wearing modern dress."

Ensler, whose group distributes "Vagina Warrior" buttons and T-shirts, proposed a new slogan inspired by California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger.

Referring to Schwarzenegger's derisive use of the term "girlie man," Ensler said, "I am all for girlie men. I think we should get buttons that say, 'I'm a girlie man and proud.' ... Because what is a girlie man? A person who listens, a person who negotiates, a person who doesn't escalate violence."

RAWA

[www.rawa.org](http://www.rawa.org)

Malalai Joya

<http://www.geocities.com/malalaijoya/>

Yanar Mohammed

[www.equalityiniraq.com](http://www.equalityiniraq.com)

**Lessons for Lambs to Fight Off Wolves**  
**The nation (Nairobi) July 28, 2004**  
**By Grace Kithaka**

The young girls are seated on the parade ground, keenly repeating what the four visitors - who had interrupted their afternoon session - are teaching.

The lesson at New Kihumbuini Primary School in Kangemi, is a girls only affair, since the subject is how to avoid being a rape victim and how to react in case you are attacked. The instructors, a group of volunteers from Dolphin Anti-Rape and Aids Control Outreach, begin with the "dos" and "don'ts".

"Msichana aliyechanuka, hampatii mwanaume hamjui mkono ya..." reads Peninah Benga from a pamphlet, stopping mid-word to allow girls to complete it for her, which they do and in unison, "yakeee!" (a street-smart girl does not shake hands with a stranger). Meanwhile, Winnie Onyango, her colleague keeps watch over the children to ensure maximum attention.

Then follows a demonstration, with a man from Dolphin representing a would-be attacker and one of the girls playing the role of the victim. Stephen Kilonzo approaches the young girl and as he talks to her, offers his hand in greeting. The girl, who seems to have forgotten what they have just been taught, offers her hand, and he quickly pulls her towards him. The audience squeals with laughter. Startled by the incident, a little girl seated near the two actors, draws a quick breath then slowly relaxes and joins the rest in laughter.

Realising her mistake, the girl in the demonstration smiles sheepishly. Not to worry she's told, because they will repeat the demonstration.

This time she refuses to take the stranger's hand. "Akinipa mkono, nini itanizuia kumfuta na kwenda naye? "(If she gives me her hand, what will stop me from grabbing her and taking off with her?) Kilonzo directs the question at the audience.

And so the lesson continues, with each theory being followed by a demonstration. The Dolphin group has designed the lessons to cover different age groups, but due to the pressure of time today, they could not divide the girls into groups.

Usually, talks for lower classes involve tips about declining lifts and sweets from strangers, who should and should not watch them dressing or undressing, why nobody should touch their bodies, and why they should go straight home from school.

"Because of their age, such tips are more relevant to the lower classes," explains the group's leader, Duncan Bomba.

When the preventive tips on the pamphlet are over, Benga and Onyango take a back seat. It is now time for reactive demonstrations. This time, Bomba plays the victim and Kilonzo the assailant.

Through their demonstrations, the girls and their attentive female teachers learn that they can use their teeth or fingers to attack an assailant.

"Use your index and middle fingers to poke your assailant's eyes like this," the two men demonstrate and then call one of the girls and ask her to do the same to Kilonzo when he grabs her from the front and pretends to drag her away.

"If someone grabs and lifts you, bite his ears and as soon as he sets you down, run," they are told. "If he has you on a bench or bed, fold your knees close to your chest and as he steps close to get on top of you, jerk your knees straight to push him away with the impact, or poke him in the eye."

There is also a demonstration for those who go home alone to show how easily a would-be rapist could grab them. "If the girl was accompanied by two or three colleagues, they would help save her, or at least alert passers-by."

Other techniques to fend off an assailant included spitting or throwing soil into an assailant's eyes, or kicking his groin or his knee cap.

Through it all the girls giggle, but they are aware of the seriousness of the matter at hand. Their teachers, sitting nearby, watch and listen keenly, sometimes trying out some of demonstrations on each another.

"Practical knowledge is one of the best life skills," Bomba says. "We want the girls to know what can happen. The demonstrations ensure that everything sinks in and remains there for a long time."

Peninah Benga and Winnie Onyango ensure that the pupils pay attention to the show.

"Not all assailants use force; some will act very nice and the girls need to know that behind these friendly gestures lie devious intentions," says Bomba.

The Dolphin quartet use day-to-day situations, for example, a man sending a girl to the shop. "If the man has ulterior motives," the girls are told, "he will try to lure you into the house, which you mustn't do.

"It is all right to leave the items at the door, inform him and go."

Dolphin Anti-Rape and Aids Control Outreach, a volunteer group, started in 1998 with 25 members, who have since reduced to 10. "Since we are a volunteers, some in the group felt that they couldn't go on without pay," explains Winnie.

Nevertheless, they have reached over 200,000 students and teachers in several towns, including Nakuru, Eldoret, Nairobi, Kiambu and Kakamega. In May, this year alone, they visited 98 schools.

"We saw that rape cases were on the increase and nothing was being done about it. The law is not enough because it is applied after the damage has been done," Bomba says. "We focus on young girls and boys, who are the high risk victims. We visit schools, colleges, women's groups and churches and rely on private funding to travel to these institutions and accomplish our goal."

The programme is free. The organisers of V-Day in Kenya have been funding the group since 2002, which has enabled them to visit all these institutions, including training female staff at Safaricom's Headquarters.

And their efforts are bearing fruit: among the letters of appreciation from the beneficiaries of their talks is one from Helen, a student at Nyahururu Primary School, who describes her response when attacked by a would-be rapist: I poked his eyes and hit his kneecap very hard. He lost control of me and I ran..."

"The aim is not to teach girls to fight men, but to disable or immobilise an assailant. The skills are a last resort," Bomba says. More proof of the effectiveness of the campaign came from the Kibera slum two months ago, when a little Chelsea Feli, a pupil in class two, bit her assailant, and thus avoided being raped. The Dolphin group had visited Kibera in 2002.

**The Vagina Is So Yesterday -- Ensler Says Now It's All About Her Stomach**  
**San Francisco Chronicle, June 24, 2004**  
**By Annie Nakao, Chronicle Staff Writer**

Wherever Eve Ensler goes, ferment ensues. Who else could provoke bejeweled Manhattan socialites to greet each other with a rousing "C -- !" -- followed by hugs and giggles? Or inspire Cairo housewives to bake "vagina cookies"? Or cause headlines to blare: "Tokyo braces for 'Vagina Monologues.' "

Five years after she blasted the word "vagina" out of whispered usage and posted it up in big, glittering lights off-Broadway, the charismatic playwright's blitzkrieg movement to stop violence against women has gone global.

"The Vagina Monologues," Ensler's hilariously bawdy take on women's most private part, has been performed in more than 30 countries and translated into 28 languages. More than 2,300 Ensler-endorsed "V-Day" celebrations (for victory, valentine and vagina) were held all over the world on Feb. 14. In the past seven years, "V-Day" events have raised more than \$25 million to fight violence against women.

Documentaries, book projects and an army of celebrity admirers trail after her like the wake of an ocean liner bearing down on yet another port. None of it seems to slow down Ensler, 51, who has by turns aided Afghan women activists during the Taliban regime, founded safe houses for battered American Indian women in South Dakota, conducted prison workshops for female inmates and, more recently, organized anti-war protests. This once-obscure New York playwright has become an iconic feminist figure with geopolitical clout.

But last week, Ensler looked surprisingly petite, even vulnerable as she nestled deep into an imposing red couch in the baroque lobby of the Hotel Monaco, just a stone's throw from the Geary Theater, where her new play, "The Good Body," has its world premiere tonight. Not that she's missing her stage persona: the jet-black precision Louise Brooks bob, pale skin and scarlet lips. Maybe it's the pale, bare legs and red toenail polish -- she's wearing a short dress and casual black slippers -- that make her seem girlish.

"If people come to the theater and actually experience loving their body for just 10 minutes, I'll be very happy," she says of her new work. The body is an essential lens through which Ensler sees the world. But she's moved on from the vagina material to her "not-so-flat, post-40s stomach."

"I thought if I said it enough, vagina, vagina, vagina, it was like magic -- I felt good about it, and I did," she said. "That's when I began a new obsession. How many hours a day do I think about my stomach, dressing it, covering it, fantasizing about how it's supposed to look?"



Unlike "The Vagina Monologues," this play is largely autobiographical, sketching a childhood spent as an anomaly to her own mother:

"She was blonde and glowed

In her pack of golden puppies I was dark and hairy

Eew! How did this one get into my litter.

My mother would do anything, everything to clean me up,

Shut me up, make me good, make me right.

"The play looks at what it's meant for women to be 'good' and what it could mean for women to be 'great,' " she says.

And what is good?

"Thin, flat, small, blond," she said. "Blond is a piece of being good."

And great?

"An original who follows her own voice and is probably loud and ambiguous and complicated and a mystery," Ensler said. "Women have a real decision to make, whether to be good or great."

The play reveals her own past loathings about her body: "I watch ab-roller infomercials until 4 a.m. as I eat an entire bag, a family-size bag, of peanut M&Ms." Ensler, who grew up middle-class in Scarsdale, N.Y., was abused physically and sexually by her father and spent most of her young adulthood as a suicidal alcoholic.

But "The Good Body" is also full of grimly humorous characterizations of other women struggling to be good.

Like Carmen, who worships her Latin Cosmo girl mother, possessor of the highly prized "round, plumpy, high Mercedes-Benz ass." Carmen, however, is told she is "the ugly one. ... When I was a kid she would just back me into the mirror at home like a broken-down truck and she would poke at my spread like it was a jellyfish. 'Oh god, Carmen, Carmen, you've got the spread. Mira. Mira. It's bad, Carmen. You better work hard on a nice waist and a brain or no one will ever f-- you.' "

Or Bernice, who is taunted as a "chubbalah, Godzilla, fatso" girl. "Fat girls do everything double. We have to be funny. Fat girls give the best head. Fat girls always swallow." At "fat camp," Bernice sneaks out to go "chunky dunking" in the pool, where she and some other fat girls dive from the board, creating a huge wave that washes away the beach chairs. "It felt so good. We did some fat girl water ballet. It was Swan Ass Lake."

Humor has always been Ensler's linchpin in making private tortures so very public.

"If it wasn't funny, there's no way we could tolerate thinking about it," she said.

It's not a style of feminism everyone likes. The same "Vagina Monologues" that catapulted her from being a little-known playwright to becoming what some see as the Joan of Arc of a global movement for women's rights has earned her the enmity of some feminists who find her hopelessly naive and accuse her of trivializing serious issues -- navel-gazing is a common slam at Ensler -- and even of objectifying women's bodies.

Ensler is puzzled, if unperturbed, by criticism.

"I really believe when things are funny, ideas go into the bodies of human beings," she said. "One of the reasons why the women's movement has not been successful is because it has not landed in the body."

Pointing to her head, she said, "It's all up here."

That's clearly not what she feels happens onstage.

"Women don't really exist in this culture," Ensler said. "We only have sound-bite versions of ourselves. What's amazing to me is when people see the show, something gets released in them. They see their deep essential selves. That's what I think can happen here."

### **V-Day Manila Organizers To Produce "TVM" in Tokyo Tokyo Business Wire, June 14<sup>th</sup>, 2004**

Tokyo Braces Itself for 'The Vagina Monologues' by Eve Ensler, the Controversial International Hit Play

This early it is creating controversy as various groups question the use of the word 'vagina' and its Japanese translation in a theatre play in Tokyo.

This early it is creating controversy as various groups question the use of the word 'vagina' and its Japanese translation in a theatre play in Tokyo.

New Voice Company (NVC) announces the Japan Premier of Eve Ensler's 'The Vagina Monologues' (TVM) in Japanese: June 23 - July 3, 2004 at Theatre V Akasaka, Tokyo, Japan. TVM Premier is directed by NVC Artistic Director Monique Wilson, Translation by Keiko Itoh. The Japan Premier will feature Japanese actresses: Koko Furuta, Kaori Okamoto and Chizuru Onoyama.

TVM is precisely what its name suggests - a series of stories, in which women talk about the most secret part of their bodies. But it's a great deal more. Using intelligence, integrity and comparison, Eve Ensler has created not just one of the best shows in the world today (it has premiered in over 40 countries and been translated in over 25 languages) but the most morally serious. In TVM, Eve has given voice to a chorus of lusty, outrageous, poignant, brave, highly original and thoroughly human stories. Based on interviews with a diverse group of women - the play brazenly explores the humor, power, pain, wisdom, outrage, mystery and excitement hidden in vaginas. TVM is alternately hilarious and deeply moving. Covering issues from sexual abuse, first lesbian experiences, indignities of pelvic exams, women's dreams and desires, orgasms, sex, marriage, infidelity, childbirth and womanhood, the play deftly combines drama and comedy.

### **V-Day 2004 "Celebrating Vagina Warriors" is the Movement's Biggest Year in its Seven-Year History: Over 2300 Events and Campaigns Raise \$5 Million and Generate Global Awareness (2004) Over 5000 V-Day Events in 76 Countries Since Inception in 1998**

June 07, 2004 – Today, V-Day announced that its 2004 season (January –March 2004) was the global movement's biggest awareness and fundraising year to date with over \$5 million dollars raised. The theme for the 2004 season "Celebrating Vagina Warriors" was reflected throughout the high profile series of V-Day benefits, events and campaigns. Key 2004 highlights included the first documentary about the movement "Until The Violence Stops;" the V-Day and Amnesty International March on Juarez, Mexico to honor the over 300 missing and murdered women and to support the families and groups working for justice; the two-week intensive V-Day 2004 Visit to India: Celebrating the Indian Woman Warrior featuring events in Mumbai, Himachal, and Delhi; and over 2,300 V-Day 2004 benefit productions of "The Vagina Monologues" in February and March in 1,100 communities and colleges worldwide benefiting local community anti-violence programs.

In mounting its annual campaigns, V-Day draws inspiration from the thousands of Vagina Warriors – volunteers, activists, sponsors, media, and supporters – who work worldwide to end violence against women and girls in their communities. Each V-Day event helps a woman tell her story, inspires others to give, engages the local media, enables women to expand their networks, and encourages entire communities to act together to end violence against women.

#### Highlights of V-Day 2004 "Celebrating Vagina Warriors" "UNTIL THE VIOLENCE STOPS"

Directed by first time director Abby Epstein, UNTIL THE VIOLENCE STOPS documents how "The Vagina Monologues" grew into an international grassroots movement called V-Day to stop violence against women and girls. In 2002, eight hundred cities around the world participated in V-Day by staging benefit performances of The Vagina Monologues. UNTIL THE VIOLENCE STOPS shows women from locations as diverse as Harlem, Ukiah, California, the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation, the Philippines, and Kenya, uniting and courageously revealing their intimate and deeply painful experiences with abuse ranging from rape to female circumcision. In emotionally charged interviews and performances, everyday and celebrity women such as Rosie Perez, Salma Hayek, Tattoo Cardinal, Jane Fonda, and LisaGay Hamilton embrace their bodies, reconcile their pasts, and bond together to break the silence that surrounds abuse. More than just testimonies and performances, UNTIL THE VIOLENCE STOPS is a film about empowerment and the importance of dialogue in the healing process. A celebration of women reclaiming their bodies

- The documentary world premiered at the Sundance Film Festival on January 17, with two additional screenings added due to popular demand. Vagina marketing became all the rage at Sundance with Vagina Warrior ski caps becoming the in demand item for Park City attendees.
- Six U.S. communities hosted benefit screenings to raise funds and awareness for local groups working to end violence against women and girls: Santa Fe, NM; San Francisco and Ukiah, CA; Miami (Film Festival); Atlanta, GA; White Plains, NY.
- The documentary premiered February 17, commercial free on Lifetime Television, with nearly 1 million viewers. Immediately after the east coast broadcast, Tampax hosted the first-ever live V-Day web-cast from The University of Tulsa (OK), where thousands of women and men logged on to ask Eve and V-Day questions about the film and the movement.
- Media coverage of the documentary appeared in hundreds of national and local broadcast and print outlets including CNN, TODAY, NPR, PEOPLE, TV Guide, USATODAY.com and many more. V-Day supporters Jane Fonda and Glenn Close joined Eve for television, radio and print interviews and junkets. Early reports from our print monitoring service found over 400 articles from February 1-29, 2004 reaching over 50 million people.

**SPOTLIGHT ON JUAREZ, INTERNATIONAL MARCH ON JUAREZ, MEXICO** Through the Mexico City production of "The Vagina Monologues," direct support to Casa Amiga and other grassroots groups, and the efforts of thousands of activists, V-Day has been working throughout Mexico and internationally to raise awareness about the missing and murdered women of Juarez. For V-Day 2004, Juarez was our Spotlight issue placing the issue in front of millions in the U.S. and internationally through the over 2000 V-Day benefits that took place in February - March. While there have been victories in terms of awareness and discussions, the struggle is not over as more bodies have recently been found and the murders remain unsolved.

"The City of Murdered Women," V-Day Founder/Playwright Eve Ensler's essay on the missing and murdered women of Ciudad Juarez, appeared in the March issue of Marie Claire magazine.

- Working closely with Amnesty International, V-Day placed stories on the issue in PEOPLE, the Los Angeles Times, CosmoGIRL and more.
- On February 13 the V-Day delegation – including Congresswomen Jan Schakowsky (IL) and Hilda Solis (CA), Jane Fonda, Sally Field, Christine Lahti, Lifetime Television CEO Carole Black, PBS CEO Pat Mitchell, Lifetime EVP Public Affairs Meredith Wagner – met with mothers whose daughters have been murdered or are missing; immediately following the American Consulate hosted a reception welcoming the V-Day community to Juarez to support our efforts to raise awareness and to end the violence against women in Juarez. The newly appointed special prosecutors met with Eve and members of the delegation to discuss changes and progress – or the lack of – in these cases
- On V-Day, February 14, over 7,000 people traveled to Juarez - thousands crossing the bridge from neighboring El Paso, TX - to stand up for the women of Juarez.

- Following the march, thousands gathered for a community luncheon in advance of the historic, first performance of "The Vagina Monologues" in Juarez by a bilingual cast included Lilia Aragon, Marinitia Escobedo, Laura Flores, Monica Alicia Juarez, Jane Fonda, Sally Field and Christine Lahti.
- The march and the performance garnered international media coverage, saturating the U.S., UK, Mexico and Latin America via CNN, Univision, Telemundo, local ABC, CBS, NBC stations, Agence France Presse, Associated Press, BBC, The Guardian, the Sunday Times and more.
- VICTORY! On March 8 V-Day was notified by a local community organization in Juarez that as a result of the March on Juarez the Chihuahua State's Attorney had resigned.

**V-DAY INDIA 2004: CELEBRATING THE INDIAN WOMAN WARRIOR** Through V-Day Special Representative Hibaaq Osman's leadership and vision, art and activism united to end violence against women in India. A V-Day delegation, along with star supporters Jane Fonda and Marisa Tomei, traveled to India March 8-20 to celebrate South Asian women's activism.

- A gala benefit production of "The Vagina Monologues" was staged on International Women's Day (March 8) in Mumbai. The Indian cast, along with Jane, Marisa and Eve wowed the standing room only audience.
- The V-Day delegation toured a SNEHA (Society for Nutrition, Education and Health Action) hospital/shelter in the largest slum in Mumbai. SNEHA was a beneficiary of the V-Day Mumbai event and is now a V-Day awardee.
- V-Day met with representatives of Citibank in Mumbai who are supporting the work of several groups working to end violence against women and girls followed by a 14-hour (one-way) bus journey to the state of Himachal, near Dharamsala (the Tibetan seat of government) to support Jagori, the host organization in Delhi, to celebrate the opening of their new learning center for women and girls. During the stay at the Norbulingka Institute (founded by the Dalai Lama with a mission is to preserve Tibetan culture) the group visited the Buddhist nunnery and lit 1001 candles as a blessing for the learning center and for peace and non-violence.
- In Delhi, V-Day, along with Jagori and SANGAT, hosted a three-day conference: "Confronting Violence: Recounting Resistance, Envisioning Justice." The conference objective was to analyze how feminists have faced Violence Against Women, what connections have been made with other phenomena like communalism, fundamentalisms, globalization, privatization etc. A dynamic group of over 70 women from South Asian (including Sri Lanka, Afghanistan, Pakistan, China, Nepal, Bangladesh, and India) attended the conference. Eve performed a one-woman show of "The Vagina Monologues" for conference attendees and special guests that brought down the house.
- V-Day co-sponsored an evening of Women Artists for Justice, Harmony and Peace, a concert in an open-air venue. The voices of youth, the dancing of women, the strength of poetry and Eve's powerful words were a beautiful, celebratory way to end V-Day India 2004.
- Indian print, radio and television media covered the trip two weeks in advance with multiple stories on the celebrities, the events, and the activist conference. Throughout the visit Indian media saturated the message of V-Day's mission to end violence against women via interviews with Eve, Hibaaq Osman, Jane Fonda and Marisa Tomei.

(A full report from V-Day Special Representative, Hibaaq Osman, will be released this summer.)

**2,300 V-DAY EVENTS IN 1,100 COMMUNITIES** Through V-Day campaigns, local volunteers and college students produced annual benefit performances of "The Vagina Monologues" to raise awareness and funds for anti-violence groups within their own communities. Since V-Day launched its very first event in 1998, the movement has encountered incredible women working to end violence against women and girls in their communities.

These women have often experienced violence personally or witnessed it within their communities and dedicated themselves toward ending such violence through effective, grassroots means. They have been the very heart of V-Day. This year, V-Day's 2004 events and campaigns celebrated these women whom Eve has dubbed 'Vagina Warriors.' V-Day productions around the world selected and honored Vagina Warriors in its own community.

- Eve's solo performance to a sold-out, SRO audience in Tulsa, OK benefited The Spirits of Hope: A Coalition Addressing Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault and Stalking in Oklahoma Indian Country. After Eve's performance Jane Fonda performed "Emotional Creature," a new piece written by Eve.

- The first-ever transgendered V-Day was staged in Los Angeles. It was a spectacular evening of celebration, performance and education about the horrific violence that transgendered women endure. A highlight of the evening was the performance of a new piece by Eve written specifically for the event, "He Beat the Girl Out of My Boy...Or So He Tried."

- In March, models, actresses and politicians joined together to stage V-Day Nairobi, a performance of "The Vagina Monologues" benefiting the Rape Crisis Centre at the Nairobi Women's Hospital in Nairobi and the V-Day Safe House, the first safe house in Kenya for girls running away from early marriages and female genital mutilation.

- In an event of corporate activism, V-Day LUNA (Luna Bar, a V-Day sponsor) united corporate employees and community members – including Tiffany Schlain of Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness – in two sold out benefit performances of "The Vagina Monologues" that raised close to \$20,000 and celebrated vaginas in the boardroom.

- Eve supported Amnesty International's London launch of a two year Stop Violence Against Women Campaign with AI Secretary General Irene Kahn and actor Patrick Stewart. The event received worldwide media coverage.

- V-Day Europe launched on February 14. With the support of the European Commission, national coordinators in the UK, France, Germany and Luxembourg have joined forces to promote V-Day in Europe,. Between 14 February and mid-March, V-Day performances of "The Vagina Monologues" took place in Trier, Saarbrücken, Frankfurt am Main, Bochum and Bremen, in Paris, Brest and other cities in France. To mark International Women's Day, an international team in Esch-sur-Alzette in Luxembourg hosted a V-Festival throughout the month of March 2004 with a wide range of women's art events, performances of "The Vagina Monologues" in French and German and culminating in a transnational, multilingual V-Day performance on 14 March 2004 that brought together all European partners in a celebration of the movement. On March 8 at London V-Day Westminster, the first ever performance of "The Vagina Monologues" by women politicians of all political parties, took place. MPs including Joan Ruddock, Caroline Spelman, Sandra Gidley and Oona King, as well as the Home Office minister Caroline Flint, performed alongside Jerry Hall, Meera Syal and Anita Roddick before a packed audience at the Criterion Theatre in London! In addition, there were over 70 local performances across the UK.

- Overall media coverage of local V-Day 2004 events continues to grown in campus and regional papers. Events receive major local coverage as well as placement in key papers such as The Boston Globe and Chicago Tribune and on local TV stations nationwide.

Also of note in 2004 are the V-Day events that did not happen – Beijing, China; Chennai, India; and on select Catholic college campuses. In Beijing, China, authorities shut down a production of 'The Vagina Monologues' translated into Chinese. International media - including The New York Times - covered the banning reporting that the Chinese character for vagina is half anatomical and half vulgar. Despite a successful staging earlier in the week in Mumbai, in the southern Indian city of Chennai, a local police commissioner banned the V-Day India 2004 benefit production of "The Vagina Monologues" scheduled to include Jane Fonda and Marisa Tomei, claiming that the play posed a threat to public order. Indian media covered the story extensively as well as the performance and events in Mumbai and Delhi.

In the U.S., the Cardinal Newman Society continued its campaign against V-Day benefits at Catholic colleges. Several V-Day productions at Catholic Colleges and Universities moved to off campus locations. As in previous years, these negative efforts - which are the minority considering that 1100 communities staged successful V-Day benefits - generated considerable publicity about the play and the issue of violence against women in local and national media including USA Today.

As the 7th V-Day season comes to an end, V-Day thanks the thousands of women and men activists – the true vagina warriors worldwide – who brought V-Day into their communities, raising funds and awareness, and making sure that not another woman or girl will experience violence. Since V-Day's first NYC benefit in 1998, the

movement has expanded to 76 countries with V-Day events worldwide from Angola to China to Ethiopia to Israel to Yugoslavia to Zimbabwe. To date, over 5000 benefit productions of The Vagina Monologues have taken place, raising funds for local grassroots antiviolence groups and educating millions of people about the issue of violence against women and girls.

**Eve Ensler to Receive Award for International Peace Efforts, Annual Award to be Given by Student Groups at Cardozo Law  
April 19, 2004**

The Cardozo Journal of Conflict Resolution (CJCR) and the International Law Students Association (ILSA) at the Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law, Yeshiva University, will award the fifth annual International Advocate for Peace Award to Eve Ensler. The ceremony will take place in the Jacob Burns Moot Court Room on May 6, 2004, at Cardozo, 55 Fifth Avenue, New York.

"This Award recognizes and celebrates the efforts of those who dedicate their lives to achieving peace and resolving worldwide conflicts. Ms. Ensler's international campaign to eliminate widespread genocide of and violence against women through nonviolent means is a testament to the true spirit of this Award," said Seth Lieberman, CJCR Editor-in-Chief.

"In this age of escalating terror and violence, Ms. Ensler has traveled to over 40 countries, spreading the message of peace and working for the empowerment of women. Her dedication and devotion to stopping worldwide violence against women and girls is both admirable and unprecedented." said Darren Seilback, ILSA President.

The International Advocate for Peace Award was created in 1999 by CJCR and ILSA in the spirit of the law school's namesake, former U.S. Supreme Court Justice Benjamin N. Cardozo, who recognized the profound importance of freedom of expression in advocating for peace in his seminal decision in *Palko v. Connecticut*. Previous Award winners include Archbishop Desmond Tutu, President William Jefferson Clinton, Ambassador Richard C. Holbrooke, Senator George J. Mitchell, and John Wallach for Seeds of Peace.

Eve Ensler's *The Vagina Monologues*, an Obie-Award-winning play, has been translated into over 35 languages and has ran in many theaters across the world. *The Vagina Monologues* is based on Ensler's interviews with over 200 women, and celebrates womens' sexuality and strength, and reveals some of the horrors that many women must endure each day. She began to use performances of the play to raise funds for organizations working to stop violence. Moreover, Ms. Ensler initiated V-Day, a global movement to stop violence against all women and girls. Today, V-Day is a movement that helps anti-violence organizations throughout the world to continue and expand their efforts, and drawing attention to stopping worldwide violence (including rape, battery, incest, female genital mutilation, sexual slavery) against all women and girls. In her efforts to transform violence into healing, Ms. Ensler has "sat with women in crowded factories in Juarez, in crumbling shelters in the back streets of Cairo, in makeshift centers for teenage girls and women in Jerusalem, Johannesburg, Pine Ridge and Watts, in mansions in Hollywood, in burnt-out backyards in Kosova and Kubal, in a moving van after midnight in Paris." Ms. Ensler and the women of V-Day's efforts are far-reaching and expands across the globe.

Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law is well-known for its high profile faculty as well as top ranked programs in intellectual property, alternative dispute resolution, corporate and criminal law, entertainment and communications law, legal theory, and international law. Cardozo has graduated more that 7,000 students since its founding in 1976.

**'Vagina Monologues' Becoming College Phenomenon**

**USA TODAY, March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2004**

**By Mary Beth Marklein**

The Vagina Monologues made its name in 1997 as an off-Broadway play that explores female sexuality and strength through a series of stories that are at times funny, sad, graphic or horrifying.

But over the years, the production has metamorphosed into something of a phenomenon. And nowhere, perhaps, has the play been embraced — or opposed — more passionately than on college campuses.

College groups represented 66 of the 70 organizers staging productions in 1999, the first year playwright Eve Ensler made it available for benefits shows. This year, more than 650 of the estimated 1,100 groups planning productions worldwide are affiliated with a college.

"We have never tried to get anyone to do The Vagina Monologues," Ensler says. "It just took off."

Now, it's not just a play. With violence against women a key Monologues theme, groups that put on a benefit performance donate proceeds to anti-violence charities such as rape crisis centers and women's shelters. This week, during the high season of February and March, the non-profit V-Day anti-violence group that Ensler founded, is helping human rights group Amnesty International launch a campaign to end violence against women.

Students often put their own stamp on the campaign. At the University of Notre Dame this year, an open-mike session enabled students to share their stories of sexual abuse. Organizers at the University of Wisconsin-Madison invited students to send valentines to campus housing officials highlighting unsafe dorms. And students at the University of California-Berkeley used the opportunity to raise awareness of violence against its community of transgenders, people whose identity does not conform to the gender they were assigned at birth.

But with its emotionally charged subject matter and graphic language, the productions also attract controversy. The play unfolds through a series of monologues that address issues ranging from sexual assault to sexual pleasure. In one piece, a Bosnian woman recounts her rape; another catalogs the various sounds women make during sex. The word vagina is used 132 times.

"Theater seems to be a really great way to reach people," says Elizabeth Ellcessor, 22, a senior at Georgetown University, where the play ran last weekend for the sixth year in a row. "It really gets people talking."

Others say the message is potentially damaging to young women. The content "guarantees a certain level of interest among many college students," Cate Brumley, 20, a junior at Gonzaga University in Spokane, Wash., wrote in a recent column for the Independent Women's Forum, a conservative non-profit group. But among other things, she writes, the play also "reduces the full potential of a human person" to a single body part and "encourages college women to be sexually promiscuous."

The title alone created a quandary this year for administrators at College of the Sequoias, a community college in Visalia, Calif. Worried about ruffling feathers during a bond campaign, the campus staged the play but chose not to sponsor it. An anonymous donor paid campus theater rental costs.

And in a twist this year, about 10 women, duct tape across their mouths, handed out fliers before the start of the University of Oregon production to protest what they said was an under-representation of minorities, large women and lesbians in the cast.

The most high-profile complaints, though, have come from conservative Catholics. At Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles, about a half-dozen protesters, including students, parents and alumni, held a prayer vigil outside the campus production last month. The Cardinal Newman Society, a national group that calls the production an "assault on young peoples' minds and morals," ran an ad in some editions of USA TODAY recently urging readers to demand that presidents of Catholic colleges prohibit it. So far, 16 have said they would not support a

production, though several cancellations were unrelated to the society's campaign. In some cases, students have moved the play off campus.

But most of the 27 Catholic schools where the play is scheduled to run this year take a position similar to Georgetown's. "It's important for students to be able to engage in dialog," says Georgetown spokeswoman Julie Green Bataille. "It doesn't mean we specifically endorse the way in which the views are presented in this particular case but that the student has the right to do it."

Some Catholics say they support the anti-violence message — just not the messenger.

"Universities and colleges can choose much better avenues than making the point with vulgarity," says the Very Rev. David M. O'Connell, president of Catholic University, Washington, D.C. He says he would not allow the play on his campus.

But Lindsey Horvath, 21, a senior at the University of Notre Dame who has participated in her campus production for three years, says the church "calls us to act, and we found this vehicle to act and respond to these problems."

Two years ago, the group raised \$5,000 for local anti-violence charities; last year \$6,000. This year, she estimates raising even more.

"I question these people who say there are better options. What are they?" Horvath says. "I don't think I need an alternative."

**Eve Ensler and Amnesty International March on Juarez to Stop the Murder of Young Women  
Village Voice, February 18<sup>th</sup>, 2004  
by Hillary Chute**

February 14, Juarez, Mexico—"Ni Una Mas"—"not one more"—was the impassioned rallying cry this Valentine's Day as activist groups from the U.S. and Mexico converged on this gritty border city to protest the brutal killings of more than 370 women in Juarez and the nearby state capital, Chihuahua City, since 1993. Early Saturday, a rapt crowd of 500-plus men, women, and children, sharing seats and crammed against the walls, spontaneously chanted "not one more" and "you're not alone" at the local university as Mexican professor Marcela Lagarde addressed the "feminicidio" that has plagued Chihuahua State for the past decade.

Between 5,000 and 7,000 anti-violence protestors then gathered at the Lerdo Bridge separating Texas and Mexico and marched down Juarez's central Lerdo Avenue, lined with wedding-dress stores and small restaurants. Screaming "justicia," protestors carried black balloons, blurry black-and-white photocopies of missing and murdered women, and decorated dresses hanging on tall pink crosses. Even a group of fraternity brothers from University of Texas-El Paso-decked out in T-shirts reading "men of character"—marched with an enormous canvas of handprints and the declaration "These hands don't hurt."

At the front was Vagina Monologues author Eve Ensler, whose international non-profit V-Day co-sponsored the march with Amnesty International, which last year issued a detailed report damning the quality of the criminal investigations in Juarez and Chihuahua City. Accompanying Ensler was press-magnet Jane Fonda and other so-called "Very Important Vaginas": actors Sally Field and Christine Lahti, PBS president Pat Mitchell, Lifetime CEO and president Carole Black, and Congresswomen Jan Schakowsky (Illinois) and Hilda Solis (California). Solis wants to pass House Resolution 466, which supports the multilateral creation of a DNA database in Chihuahua state.

In the U.S., the right wing hopes to smear John Kerry for being within five feet of Fonda in 1970; for most in Juarez, the simple fact that Fonda, whoever she is, is a famous person agitating to draw attention to the murdered women is a hopeful sign. "I am rich, I am famous, I am white, and I have a daughter and a granddaughter," Fonda declared to a group of storming reporters. "If they were murdered or disappeared, I know the authorities would work very hard to find out who kidnapped them." Fonda concluded her comments by admonishing the press: "Why did it take international movie stars to turn up for you to be here?"



A little over ten years ago, according to an Amnesty Now article, the number of women murdered in Juarez—a city of roughly 1.3 million—averaged three a year. In 1993, the number skyrocketed to three a month. Many of these murders are classified by the police as "situational," as in domestic violence and drug- or gang-related violence, even though the similarities between the murders clearly point to a larger trend. The mutilated bodies of young, poor women are dumped in and at the outskirts of the city. The average age of the victims is 16. At least one-third of them work in the city's maquiladoras, or foreign assembly plants. More than one-third of the women are raped before they are killed, and most of their bodies show signs of captivity and torture. Once seen as a problem in the rough, crime-ridden Juarez alone, the murders have now spread to Chihuahua City.

Rumors about the killings identify its perpetrators variously as the state police, an international organ-trafficking ring, Satanists, organized-crime factions, serial killers from the U.S., a group of local serial killers, and the Mexican government.

So who is killing the women? At an emotional press conference in the crammed lobby of the Juarez's modest Monte Carlo hotel on Friday, one mother of a murdered girl answered, "We don't know. Why do they leave them like this [mutilated]? What are they trying to erase? . . . I am sure the state police of Chihuahua know what happened to these girls. I want to know. That's a mother's right." Amnesty's report declares that "the failure of the competent authorities to take action to investigate these crimes, whether through indifference, lack of will, or inability, has been blatant." Alma Guillermoprieto, who wrote about the killings for *The New Yorker* this past fall, sees "active collusion" by the Chihuahua police as a logical possibility, and "active indifference" as the least-incriminating explanation. The police deny all involvement.

The murder of women in Chihuahua state is certainly a socio-economic political issue. After NAFTA, workers from poor villages poured into Juarez, and the rise in violence in 1993 coincides with the boom of the maquiladora economy. On Saturday, the group La Mujer Obrera distributed leaflets avowing that the murders "are the consequences of a global economy that continues to promote the deterioration of the social fabric on the border." Multinational corporations take advantage of loose environmental regulations and cheap Mexican labor—maquiladora workers are paid less than \$5 a day. U.S.-run factories in Juarez—including Thomson/RCA, General Electric, Ford, and Dupont—have done little to ensure the safety of their female workers: girls have disappeared in the waste-grounds adjacent to factories, which are often unlit. Private companies have rejected the idea that they should pay for security for their workers. Claudia Ivette Gonzalez disappeared after her assembly plant turned her away for arriving four minutes late; she was found in 2001 in a ditch with seven other young women. Her employer, the Lear Corporation, stated that the company did not need to provide its workers with extra security because her murder didn't happen on Lear property.

Saturday's protest ended with a free performance of the *Vagina Monologues* in Spanish and English, featuring the Mexican actors Lilia Aragon, Marinitia Escobedo, and Laura Flores—and Fonda, Field, and Lahti—at a packed local dance hall. Ensler made the important gesture of including monologues (in addition to standards like "Bob," about a vagina-friendly man) that spoke directly to international violence against women. There was a long, moving performance in Spanish about the rape and assassination of women in Kosovo. And Field, occasionally crying, did a piece that focused on spousal acid burning in Islamabad and female disfigurement from bombing in Iraq before she ended with the situation in Juarez. American folk singer Holly Near—leading a chant for "ni una mas"—performed a song for Juarez that also targeted violence in Chile and Guatemala.

Global in focus, V-Day and Amnesty assert that the Juarez crimes are a human-rights scandal. And so while groups like Women in White, a government-sponsored activist party—and even a selection of victim's mothers—were said to oppose the protest in part on the grounds that the vocal agitating lacked dignity, Ensler made savvy choices: pointing to the worldwide problem of gender violence, she didn't single out Juarez for blame.

The *Vagina Monologues* clearly inspired and often amused its audience. Fonda played a woman who regards her vagina distantly as a "red leather couch" or a "mink-lined muffler," and another piece ran the gamut of orgasm types: "mariachi," "diva," "triple," etc. But the divide between the monologues' occasionally playful content and the issue of unsolved murder at times felt awkward. While the crowd for the most part whooped and roared enthusiastically throughout the show, a group of three mothers whom I recognized from the previous day's press conference—sitting in the front row, placards of their daughters' faces hanging over their chests—silently stood up and walked out mid-

way through.

The mothers remain optimistic, but not overly so. In October, Vincente Fox appointed a special federal commissioner, Maria Guadalupe Morfin, to monitor the state's work, and last month, he appointed a special federal prosecutor, Maria Lopez Urbina, to run her own investigations. But for these appointments to be effective, they have to be well funded, and there's no promise yet that Fox won't be as effectively neglectful of the situation in Juarez as he has been since his election. Asked at the press conference if she had hope in Lopez, one mother replied, simply, "We hope to have hope in her." Ensler, for her part, declared Saturday V-day for "victory": the march was the largest in 10 years of anti-violence activism in the city. As one lawyer for several mothers stated, "This is the only thing that has pressured the government." Ensler vowed, "We will keep coming back to Juarez until women are free and safe."

**Violence: A Women's Issue, Sundance film follows play's rise from theater to worldwide movement**  
**Salt Lake Tribune (Salt Lake City, Utah), January 16, 2004**  
**By Vince Horiuchi**

There was a time when Jane Fonda had trouble saying that "V" word.

"I was asked to perform 'The Vagina Monologues' about 3 1/2 years ago in Atlanta and I asked to have the play sent to me," she said. "I started reading it, and I thought to myself, 'Oh no, I'm sorry, I have enough problems with controversy. I don't think I need to say the V-word onstage.' So I passed."

But thanks to a persistent friend, she saw writer/activist Eve Ensler's performance of her famous one-woman show in New York. Fonda was floored by its frank stories about how women perceive their bodies, sexuality and self-esteem -- acknowledging that seeing the play had greater impact than just reading it.

"It was one of the most memorable and empowering experiences of my life," Fonda told The Salt Lake Tribune in a telephone conversation from New Mexico. "I don't think I have ever laughed so hard in the theater or cried so hard."

Needless to say, Fonda ended up appearing in the play. Like millions of other women, it touched her on "some very somatic level."

That is an example of how "The Vagina Monologues" escalated from a humble off-Broadway performance to a worldwide social movement against violence launched by Ensler. She calls her organization "V-Day."

Using "The Vagina Monologues" as a fund-raising tool, V-Day has raised more than \$20 million to help anti-violence programs worldwide. The cause has attracted other actors, including Glenn Close, Marisa Tomei, Isabella Rosselini and Oprah Winfrey.

A new documentary called "Until the Violence Stops" follows the growing movement around the globe and has its world premiere at the Sundance Film Festival on Saturday at 6 p.m. at the Yarrow Hotel Theater in Park City. Ensler and Fonda, who is a member of V-Day's V-Counsel, will attend. Both women and their roles in the movement are featured in the documentary, which is directed by Abby Epstein.

Ensler wrote the play "The Vagina Monologues" after conducting interviews with more than 200 women about their sexuality, their bodies and their stories of violence and sexual abuse. The play has been performed several times in Salt Lake City.

"I was talking to a friend about menopause, and we got on to the subject of our vagina, and I was sort of wondering what other women thought. So I just started talking to friends, and one thing led to another," she told The Salt Lake Tribune in a phone conversation from Manhattan.

The power of Ensler's play comes from talking about issues that for centuries have been taboo.

"It's a very moving monologue that talks about how the vagina is like a miracle," said the Oscar-winning Fonda. "It can open to receive love or to let a baby out. It can close like a wound and heal itself. It can bring life.

"If the penis could do what the vagina could do, there would be a monument to it in Washington, D.C.," she added. "But instead, vaginas are cut up and sewed and raped and denigrated and insulted, and we are made ashamed of it."

V-Day focus: Last month, Fonda spent a day in Guatemala, where she said no one has been prosecuted for the murders of more than 700 women in the past two years by "death squads." That country likely will be the focus of V-Day in February 2005.

This February, V-Day supporters, which Ensler calls Vagina Warriors, will focus their attention on Juarez, Mexico, where the murders of more than 300 women and girls have never been investigated, Ensler said. That month, which marks the sixth anniversary of the V-Day organization, 2,500 performances of "The Vagina Monologues" will be given in 1,050 locations around the world.

"It's incredible when you think that six years ago, we were in one theater in New York City," Ensler said, "and now we're talking about 2,500 performances. You see the urgency of this issue."

Utah benefit: As part of V-Day events last February, proceeds from a local performance of "The Vagina Monologues" at the Rose Wagner Theater in Salt Lake City generated \$10,000 for the Rape Recovery Center. Additional money also went to The University of Utah's Women's Resource Center and the YWCA, which runs a shelter for abused women.

"Anything that is bringing attention to the violence against women in our community is a good thing," said Jaimee Roberts, executive director of the Rape Recovery Center in Salt Lake City.

"It takes the shroud of secrecy off of the issue of sexual assault and rape," she added. "It's always historically something we can't talk about, so women can't reach out for help as easily. What Eve . . . and others are doing is saying the shame should not be placed on the person who is hurt but should be placed on the person who does the harm."

Tale of a movement: "Until the Violence Stops," which will premiere on the Lifetime cable television network Feb. 17, chronicles the growth of the movement in 2002 through five international communities. It begins with V-Day events at Harlem's Apollo Theater, where benefit performances of the monologues were held. Also included are Ukiah, Calif., the Philippines, the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota, and Kenya, where a V-Day Safe House for girls was opened.

"One out of every three women on the planet will be raped or beaten in her lifetime -- that's a U.N. statistic. We're talking about a global epidemic that is systematically undermining women," Ensler said. "What we all need to do is stop everything we're doing right this minute and focus our attention on saving, honoring, holding women sacred if we really want the species to survive."

Fonda said that during her travels around the world for V-Day, she has been moved by hundreds of stories of women who have been victimized in some way by cultures that undercut them. But Ensler's play has sparked a new way of thinking, she said.

"You hear about these things, and you begin to love this precious part of you instead of hating it," she said.

"The hope is these women are becoming empowered by this play, and they're starting to get organized," she added. "And word is getting out."

**Concerns Spread Over Juarez Murders  
Associated Press, November 24, 2003**

SAN FRANCISCO Nov. 24 - A pink blouse, a frilly yellow child's frock and other pastel-colored clothing dangle

from the ceiling. Beneath the dresses, shoes lie haphazardly among dead flower petals.

In artist Adrian Arias' homage to the women of Juarez, Mexico, the hanging clothes are a reminder of hundreds of missing or murdered girls. The scattered shoes recall those found in the desert where their raped, mutilated and beaten bodies were often abandoned.

The slayings of more than 250 women in the city just across the border from El Paso, Texas, began a decade ago. But recently, growing outrage over the killings has spread to places far from Juarez, including the San Francisco cultural center where Arias' haunting tableau is on display through Wednesday.

"There's a lot of silence around this problem," said Arias, a 42-year-old videographer, artist and poet.

"This has been going on for the past 10 years and there hasn't been anything done to resolve the problem. As an artist, I feel I need to do something to be near the families who miss their sisters, their daughters, their friends."

In recent months, protesters have called attention to the murders by carrying signs that read "Not one more" and "Justice for our daughters" outside Mexican consulates in Washington, D.C., Minneapolis, Austin, El Paso and other cities around the world.

Last month, a congressional delegation led by U.S. Rep. Hilda Solis, D-Calif., visited sites where the victims' bodies were found and spoke with their families.

And in February and March, benefit performances of "The Vagina Monologues" around the world will each donate up to 10 percent of proceeds to help families of Juarez victims. The shows, coordinated by nonprofit V-Day, will feature a new monologue about the killings by playwright Eve Ensler and provide information about them to audience members.

"I feel really, really compelled now to do everything I can to stop what's happening there, and to get America to stop it," Ensler said, adding that she's had trouble sleeping since returning from a recent trip to Juarez to research a magazine story.

**V-Day Nairobi 2003 Event Saves a Shelter”**  
***The East African Standard* (Nairobi), June 24, 2003**

*Home for Battered Women Re-Opened*

Nairobi (*The East African Standard*) (Women's Rights Awareness Programme (Wrap) has re-opened its One Stop Emergency Shelter for battered and violated women and children that was closed down last August. Wrap Director Ann Ngugi said the home for battered women was established in 1994 but was closed down last year due to lack of funds.

"We had inadequate funds for the One Stop's running costs like rent, electricity, telephone, water, food and security," said Ngugi.

She said since then, Wrap has been operating the main shelter at the risk of clients being pursued by their perpetrators. Ngugi said their efforts to re-open the home came after they received a donation of Sh513,146.65 from the organisers of V-Day, Nairobi 2003, through the proceeds of the benefit performance of The Vagina Monologue.  
- The East African Standard

**“The Hawk Eye: Reaching Out - Profile of Jerri Lynn Fields”**  
***The Hawk Eye* (Burlington Iowa), April 20, 2003**  
**By Kiley Miller**

BURLINGTON IOWA (THE HAWK EYE) It's a Tuesday in early April, and Jerri Lynn Fields is busy — really busy.

First there's the Afghanistan problem. How does one get \$325,000 into a country without a functioning banking system?

Then comes a conversation with an activist in India about a women's rights event planned next year in that country. Next are the e-mails to the Croatian defense minister, followed by an hour-long interview with a member of the press.

If that's not enough, Fields still needs to pack for a trip to Ireland, and perhaps do some reading about possible rape camps discovered in Myanmar. Then maybe, just maybe, she'll get to spend some quality time with her husband.

Fields is executive director of V-Day, a global movement to end violence against women founded by Eve Ensler, creator of "The Vagina Monologues." In little more than a year on the job, she has traveled to 13 countries, worked with Jane Fonda, met Secretary of State Colin Powell, made memories for a lifetime and witnessed some things she would rather forget.

It's a pretty good gig for a girl from Stronghurst, Ill.

"Sometimes," Fields says, "I just can't believe I get paid to do this."

Institutionalized violence

To understand the battle V-Day is fighting, consider the statistics. One in three women worldwide has been beaten, raped or abused. In South Africa, a woman is raped every 35 seconds. Two million young girls are introduced into the global commercial-sex market annually. Two Pakistani women are burned daily by fire or acid in domestic violence incidents. In America, a woman is battered every 15 seconds — four a minute, 240 an hour, 5,760 each day.

Centuries-old traditions of abuse continue in many corners of the world. In areas of Central Asia, the Middle East and South America, wives and mothers are murdered in so-called honor killings while government officials turn a blind eye.

Before a teenage Masai girl in Kenya can marry, the elder women in the village carve away her clitoris and labia, sometimes with a piece of broken glass. The circumcision, known in the West as female genital mutilation, makes sexual intercourse excruciating, so men see it as a way to keep their wives faithful.

"Violence against women has become institutionalized," Fields says. "If you walk out right now and look at three women, you need to just accept that one of them has probably had something terrible happen to them. That's an epidemic."

Fields was herself the victim of an assault, although she gives no details about the ordeal. She admits the assault affects the way she thinks and works, but denies it led to her current career.

"As someone who has experienced violence, I don't think I'm extraordinary," she says. "If the statistics are right, I'm ordinary."

As far as her mother is concerned, Fields was born an activist.

"I feel like Jerri always had a cause, always tried to fight for somebody that maybe wasn't as fortunate," says Janice Fields, who remains in the area with her husband, Larry.

That doesn't mean Mom and Dad imagined their daughter would head a global women's rights organization.

"Actually, we thought she was going to be a teacher," Janice Fields says.

Just a bureaucrat

Teaching was just what the younger Fields had in mind when she graduated from Southern High School in 1983. But by the time she had her English degree from Western Illinois University four years later, her outlook had changed.

Rather than going into the classroom, Fields spent another two years at WIU and got a master's degree in college student personnel administration. That led to a job at DePaul University and a new life in Chicago.

Before long, Fields got her first promotion, then her second. But the further up the DePaul ladder she climbed, the less she enjoyed her work.

"I was becoming a bureaucrat," she laments now.

Frustration led her to answer a help wanted ad for Horizons Community Services, the largest gay and lesbian service agency in the Midwest. She eventually served as the agency's director of youth services, anti-violence project director and director of programs.

Leaving Horizon, Fields was named executive director of Rape Victim Advocates, a rape crisis center in Chicago. It was during her three years there that she met Ensler, the woman behind V-Day.

The year was 2000, and "The Vagina Monologues" was a national phenomenon, featured everywhere from Newsweek to CNN.

At the same time, Fields was struggling to keep Rape Victim Advocates operational on donations topping out at \$50.

"I needed to have people push the envelope and do something special — give us a lot of money," she says. "We needed to raise the bar."

She called Ensler and asked her to do a benefit performance of "The Vagina Monologues" during a tour stop in Chicago.

It worked. The city's elites paid up to \$500 apiece to hear Ensler read three of the monologues and talk about violence against women.

Fields met another important person in her life during her years in the Windy City — husband David Burgess. The couple has been married two years.

Burgess is an information services guy from Michigan. It was his job transfer that took Fields to New York and V-Day.

Fields and Ensler had stayed in touch electronically since their first meeting. Once in New York, Fields kept right on sending e-mails. After eight months, Ensler offered her a job as V-Day development and communications director. That was in December 2001. Fields became the organization's second executive director four months later.

"Working with Jerri Lynn Fields has been one of the greatest pleasures of my career," Ensler says now. "She is fun, organized, a workaholic and completely devoted to the cause."

Fields is equally effusive about her boss: "She's my friend, she's my mentor, she's brilliant and she's passionate and all of those things make me want to do whatever I can to further the cause of V-Day."

Still shocking

To grasp the scope of Fields' job, it's important to know a little V-Day history.

While touring with "The Vagina Monologues" in the mid-1990s, Ensler often met women wanting to share their stories of abuse. With those stories as her rallying cry, the playwright formed V-Day in 1997 with a group of New York activists. The 'V' stands for Valentine's, victory over violence and vagina.

The first V-Day event, a benefit production of "The Vagina Monologues," took place in New York City on Feb. 14, 1998. The show featured Whoopi Goldberg, Susan Sarandon, Glenn Close and Calista Flockhart.

In its first six years, V-Day raised \$14 million, distributing 85 percent of the money to women's groups around the world.

Then there's the V-Day College Initiative. Students nationwide stage "The Vagina Monologues." The proceeds stay in the community for groups protecting women. In total, there will be more than 1,200 productions of the monologues this year.

V-Day does all this without an office. Staffers work out of their homes. It's Fields' job to keep the whole, happy mess running smoothly.

That's one half of her duties. The other half is fund-raising.

That could mean mining for new benefactors or chumming with V-Day's impressive list of corporate sponsors, including Lifetime Television, Procter & Gamble, Hearst Magazines and Marie Claire.

"Fund-raising is a big part of what I do," Fields says. "I need to raise money so that this V-Day movement can grow and we can give money to women's groups."

The giving is her favorite part. After all, that's where all those trips come in.

Fields and Ensler just completed nearly two months of travel on what they call the "V-Season Tour," attending V-Day events worldwide and looking for new causes to support.

The last leg of the trip took the pair to Afghanistan, Pakistan, Bosnia, Croatia and France.

Ensler has been working in Afghanistan since 1999 when, during the height of the Taliban's authority, members of the Revolutionary Association of the Women of Afghanistan snuck her into the country under a burkha. This was Fields' first trip to the war-torn country. She estimates three of every four women in the capital Kabul still wear burkhas. They fear the Taliban will be return to power next week and execute them for showing their faces.

1 percent

"It was bittersweet," Fields says of her five days in Kabul. "The women there feel like something good has happened, but it's not over."

The Croatian defense minister is a woman, one of four females to head defense departments in European countries. Fields and Ensler visited her to pitch V-Day's 1-percent campaign, which encourages nations to dedicate 1 percent of their defense budgets to protecting women.

The campaign has been better received abroad than in the United States, where 1 percent of the defense budget equals nearly \$4 billion.

"We're hearing so much about Homeland Security," Fields says. "We're being told to fear people from somewhere else, but for those of us who work in violence against women, we know that one of the most dangerous places for women to be is in their own home, their communities."

The most moving moment of the trip, and perhaps of Fields' life, was the V-Day celebration in Pakistan.

Armed guards patrolled the theater entrance as some of the country's top actresses performed "The Vagina Monologues" in defiance of a fatwa, or religious edict, issued by a Muslim cleric proclaiming the show violated Islamic law.

Ensler wrote one of the monologues, titled "My Vagina is My Village," after interviewing Bosnian women held in rape camps during the country's civil war. In language both lyrical and clinical, a young girl describes the torture she endured: "The soldiers put a long thick rifle inside me. So cold, the steel rod canceling my heart. Don't know whether they're going to fire it or shove it through my spinning brain."

The Pakistani actress sobbed while reading the piece. So did the other actresses on stage and the 200 people, mostly women, who had braved possible retribution to sit in the audience.

As she watched, tears spilling down her face, Fields' mind was awakened to how such atrocities bind all women together. When an Afghan woman is beaten, a Masai teen circumcised or a Bosnia girl raped, it is a wound to humanity, she said.

"When I came back from this trip, what I felt like for the first time in my life was that I was a citizen of the world as opposed to a citizen to a country with borders and an affinity to only those who look like me," Fields says. "If I can't be connected in that way, then nothing is ever going to change and we're all going to continue to live divided."

V-Day's mission to end all violence against women can seem almost arrogant, certainly impossible. Fields doesn't care. She's too idealistic to stop fighting now.

"In Pakistan, when you meet a woman who takes off her scarf to show you her melted face because her husband threw acid on her, that's a heinous form of violence," she says. "I still get shocked everyday."

**"Spreading the V word"**  
***The Friday Times (Pakistan), April 3, 2003***

Performances of the V-Monologues raise awareness about women's rights. Amra Ahmed attends V-Day in the capital The V-Day performance (produced by AMAL) in Islamabad to mark the international violence against women campaign 2003, AMAL, an NGO working on gender rights, reproductive health, HIV/AIDS, and human development, produced the play V-Monologues in Islamabad. The Vagina Monologues was first performed by the author Eve Ensler in New York over 6 years ago and has since been staged by as diverse a cast as Oscar award winning actors, students on college campuses and grassroots organisations throughout the world.

V-Day as the event was called, is part of V-World - a global movement which aims to stop violence against women and girls. In 1997 Eve Ensler met with a group of women activists and formed the idea of holding V-Days. Performances of the V-Monologues raise money and consciousness for local women's groups that are working to end all forms of violence towards women. Over these past 5 years, Ensler has contributed a sum in excess of \$14 million towards women's organisations. This year alone there have been 1,052 V-Day performances worldwide.

Pakistan is a country that badly needed a V-Day to raise awareness about violence against women. Only last week, national papers reported horrific stories of the gang rape of a 50 year old woman, sanctioned by a jirga; the rape of a 12 year old girl and the brutal disfiguring of a female Union Council Member.

V-Day is a fierce catalyst aiming to break taboos and shake societal inertia in the fight to stop worldwide violence against women, including rape, battery, incest and genital mutilation. Shocking, provocative, raw and disconcerting in turn, these true stories were read out by 8 dynamic and courageous women in the capital. Sameeta Ahmed, an artist and teacher, also had her work hanging as a backdrop to the stage. Ayesha Alam, actor, producer, director is well known for serious tele films - she has in the past dealt with the topic of rape and societal stigmatisation of minorities. Nadia Fragiacomano, an Italian development consultant gave a sensitive and heart rending performance. Samina Pirzada seemed to be truly moved during her performance - never one to shy away from provocative topics, her past films have touched on subjects such as marital rape. Bilquis Tahira, a writer of short stories, was inspired to participate in the event in order to expose the issue of violence against women. Nadia Jamil was the star of the show,



the youngest, and the most natural on stage. She was uninhibited with the material, evoking tears and laughter from the audience. Nighat Rizvi, the producer of the show and co founder of AMAL, is a gender trainer and activist and has worked on television and on stage. She was the moving spirit behind the V-Day production. Eve Ensler, the author of these remarkable writings, started this incredible movement rising above her own personal experiences with violence. Ensler read the end passage about birth, drawing a stunning conclusion about womanhood and the essence of life and motherhood.

V-Day events have been named as amongst the 100 best charities in the world, raising over \$7 million in 2002 alone. V-Day events have been hosted in such far flung places as the National Theatre in Guatemala, the Royal Albert Hall in London, the Folies Bergeres in Paris, the Appolo Theatre in Harlem and at the Help Institute in Selangor Malaysia. Eve Ensler says "V-World is a state of mind. It is a place you could never touch in me no matter how many times you banged my head or whipped my legs. V-World is the garden where the missing girls appear, their mothers and fathers waiting for them. V-World is the centre of us. It is the longing and it is remembering. V-World is what it smells like when they let you go, when you are not waiting to be hit, when you perspire from the sun instead of from worry."

V-Day is about telling stories about real women from all over the world. It's about us, it's about me, and maybe, it's about you.

- The Friday Times

**“Feminist forces invade Pakistan to win the battle of Vaginabad”**  
***Sunday Times (London), March 17, 2003***

The Sunday Times (London)

PAKISTAN (SUNDAY TIMES) Amid all the shaven-headed Americans who have moved into Pakistan during the past 10 days in the search for Osama Bin Laden, another US invasion has gone almost unnoticed.

A small band of feminists led by the playwright Eve Ensler is in Islamabad to support a group of Pakistan's leading film actresses who last night defied the country's powerful mullahs to perform a play.

Ensler's play, which tells stories of women and how they relate to their bodies and sexuality, has been performed in 48 countries, but never in a society with such repressive laws against women. The women rehearsed secretly in a large house out of town. Entry to last night's show in a hotel banquet hall was by invitation only which referred simply to "The V Monologues" and a small army of bouncers was hired in case any mullahs or militant Islamic youths tried to stop the performance.

The cast read like a list of Pakistan's top actresses including Nadia Jamil, Samina Pirzada and Ayesha Alam.

Ensler encouraged them to add horrific local statistics to the script: "Talk about the 5,000 women a year burnt with acid or set fire to by their husbands or in-laws for failing to bear sons or to be sufficiently obedient."

The driving force behind last night's production was Nighat Rizvi, who, as the first woman in Pakistan to campaign publicly on Aids, is used to taking risks. "I've had my office raided, red-painted rocks thrown through my windscreen, had a fatwa put on my head, but if we don't say what we believe nothing will change."

She contacted the actresses and to her astonishment they agreed. Pirzada is used to controversy. She was barred from appearing on television for two years for appearing with her head uncovered.

The women are hoping last night's performance will be the start of a movement against the Hudood Ordinance brought in by Pakistan's military dictator, Zia ul-Haq. This contains the "zina" law under which a woman who is raped must produce at least two male witnesses. If she fails, she is convicted of adultery, for which the penalty is stoning to death.

The actresses want to translate the monologues into Urdu and take the play into villages. "Then we will take it to London and New York to show western women that, underneath all our clothes, Muslim women are just as wild as they are," said Jamil. - The Sunday Times

**“V-Day Looks Beyond The Vagina Monologues”**  
***Womens Enews, February 14, 2003***  
**By Mona Eltahawy**

*Today is V-Day--V as in Victory, Valentine and Vagina--the global movement that Eve Ensler launched to combat violence against women and girls.*

NEW YORK (WOMENSENEWS)--Eve Ensler has faked her last orgasm on stage for "The Vagina Monologues," which ended its off-Broadway run on Jan. 29.

The play has been a major source of funding for V-Day, the global movement to combat violence against women and girls launched by Ensler five years ago. As the movement marks its birthday today, it is turning more to personal and corporate donations to replace revenue from the play.

It also focuses on two new areas of concern for its campaign against violence--spotlight on Native American and Canadian First Women, and a new initiative to end violence against women and girls in Africa, Asia and the Middle East.

"It's been three-and-a-half years, which is a very long time for a show and it's run its course," Ensler said. "For me as an artist I need to move onto the next pieces that I'm working on." These include a "teen-age monologues" based on interviews she's carried out with girls around the world about a range of issues including eating disorders, female genital mutilation, body acceptance and sex.

Next year Ensler wants to launch a one-woman production of another work called "The Good Body," based on interviews she has conducted with women in about 40 countries about their bodies.

**Theater Piece Becomes a Movement**

Ensler said she hoped both productions will generate income for V-Day.

In its first five years, the V-Day movement has raised \$14 million, with half of that raised last year alone. This year, more than 1,000 V-Day benefit events are scheduled worldwide, including productions of "The Vagina Monologues" in more than 370 cities nationally and abroad to raise money for local groups.

In addition, V-Day is holding its own fund-raisers in New York City and Los Angeles and has launched its first public service advertising campaign in magazines and on television. It features celebrities and everyday women speaking to the camera about what their world would look like if there were no violence.

Last year's V-Day launched the "Afghanistan is Everywhere" initiative, which focuses on a group of women who are working to end violence and oppression in their community. V-Day also sponsored the "Spotlight on Afghan Women" to raise funds for Afghan women working for change within their country. The title of the initiative referred to the fact that women and girls throughout the world, not just Afghanistan, are affected by violence.

This year, the spotlight is on Native American and Canadian First Nations women. The U.S. Bureau of Justice statistics indicate that the average annual rate of rape and sexual assault among American Indian women is 3.5 times higher than all other races.

Led by Native American activist Suzanne BlueStar Boy, the V-Day Indian Country Project hopes to raise awareness of the issues facing Native American and Native Alaskan women in the United States and First Nations women in

Canada. It also will raise funds to provide resources for these women.

Many Native American women victims of violence are discouraged from pursuing support and justice out of fear of familial reprisal and shame and the overlapping and confusing federal, state and tribal legal jurisdictions that can hinder investigations and prosecutions, V-Day reports.

### **New International Focus**

The other V-Day spotlight this year is on Africa, the Middle East and Asia. Ensler recently returned from a visit to Egypt, Jordan, Israel and Palestine, accompanied by V-Day's special representative to the region, Hibaaq Osman.

Osman works with women's groups in Afghanistan, Egypt, India, Israel, Jordan, Kenya, Pakistan and Palestine with a particular focus on bride burnings, female genital mutilation, honor killings, sexual assault, rape and other gender-based violence that are pervasive in much of the region.

She said one of her most shocking discoveries in Egypt was that some sons beat their mothers.

"It's a heartbreaking phenomenon. It was the first time I'd heard of this. When a father beats the mother, the son joins in. I've never heard of this in Islamic culture before," said Osman, a Muslim.

V-Day is helping the Association for the Development and Enhancement of Women--the nongovernmental organization that hosted Ensler and Osman and others from the movement--in its launching of a shelter for women victims of violence. It would be the first of its kind in an Arab country.

While in Cairo, a group of activists that Ensler was visiting persuaded her to perform "The Vagina Monologues."

One of the men at the performance, described by the Cairo Times as looking a "little shell-shocked" as he walked out, said it helped him "realize how important it is to know about these things and to respect women, their emotions and desires."

"I think we should show this in public places and it should be translated into Arabic," Ahmad Ghoneim, 23, said. "Our traditions deprive us from talking about these important issues."

*Mona Eltahawy is a staff writer for Women's Enews. Her opinion pieces and commentaries have appeared in The Washington Post and The New York Times.*

### **“American Playwright Supports Families of Women Killed in Juarez”**

*Associated Press, February 7, 2003*

**By Chris Roberts**

Throughout the Mexican border city of Juarez, poets, musicians and actors Friday joined U.S. playwright Eve Ensler in calling for action in the cases of 300 women who have been murdered over the last decade. "I think its an outrage that so many women have died and nobody has done anything about it," Ensler told hundreds of people who gathered in front of the state attorney general's office, the agency in charge of the cases.

Ensler has used her off-Broadway hit "The Vagina Monologues" to raise money for women's issues. Showings of the play in Mexico City have raised more than \$35,000 for Casa Amiga, a Juarez center that helps thousands of rape and abuse victims. Of the 300 women murdered, Mexican officials have confirmed that more than 75 of the cases are related to a series of rape-murders. Many of the young women killed were workers in border factories called "maquiladoras." About a dozen different groups representing the murdered women and their families joined to demand that the state take action on the cases, many of which remain unsolved. Five years ago Marla Estelle Luna Hernandez waited for her 15-year-old daughter to return from her job. Three weeks later a body was found in a poor neighborhood on the outskirts of Juarez. The body was mostly bones with a little skin remaining on the feet, Luna Hernandez said. Luna Hernandez recognized her daughter's clothing and a scar on an ankle from a dog bite.

However, authorities refused to release the body and later said a DNA test showed it wasn't her daughter.

"I kept insisting because I couldn't find my daughter, but they closed the case," she said in Spanish. Two years later,

another DNA test came out negative. In December, a third DNA test showed it was her daughter. "I don't want this to happen to anyone else," Luna Hernandez said through tears. "I wonder why only the poor girls disappear and the rich girls, never."

Groups from El Paso and Las Cruces, N.M., walked across an international bridge to lend their support to various events scheduled around the city. "We believe this is a binational issue," said Irasema Coronado, a political science professor at the University of Texas at El Paso. "This issue of violence transcends the border."

Although groups have been demanding action for years, little has changed in Juarez. Juarez police have arrested about 50 men - some who confessed, later recanting and saying they were tortured - but the murders continue. Juarez police have defended their actions, saying they have arrested the people responsible and consider many cases closed. As recently as November, the remains of eight women were found in a ditch.

"It's difficult not to become jaded about the situation," said Cynthia Bojarano, a co-founder of Amigos de los Mujeres de Juarez in Las Cruces. Bojarano and the others stood in the streets of Juarez with signs stating, "Hasta que la violencia termine," which means, "Until the violence ends." Many supporters wore masks, showing their respect for the missing and murdered women, faceless to the rest of the world. "It's a good thing to do," said Juan Carlos Garcia Silva, who works near a plaza where one of the rallies was held. "The people, they don't care and even if they care, they don't have the voice to tell anybody. Most of them are afraid."

**“Playwright Eve Ensler is on a Mission to Raise Consciousness”**  
***The Jerusalem Post, December 26, 2002***  
**By Eetta Prince Gibson**

"I can't give an interview right now," Eve Ensler apologized as she collapsed in her hotel room last week. "I just had 32 orgasms in public."

Celebrated playwright, acclaimed actress, and feminist activist, Ensler had just returned from Neveh Shalom, the Jewish-Arab village near Latrun, where she performed excerpts from her award-winning play, *The Vagina Monologues*. Ensler came to the region, together with several prominent US women artists, activists, and philanthropists (including Academy-award winning actress Jane Fonda), to meet with Israeli and Palestinian women in a visit that was sponsored by V-Day, the organization she founded based on the tremendous success of *The Vagina Monologues*.

Ensler, 49, is wickedly articulate, wildly funny, and deeply wise. Like many of her other plays, *The Vagina Monologues* is based on interviews with women who told her how they felt about the most intimate parts of their bodies. The results are irreverent, cheeky, and profound.

"Let's just start with the word, 'vagina,'" the play opens. "It sounds like an infection at best, maybe a medical instrument: 'Hurry, Nurse, bring me the vagina.' 'Vagina.' 'Vagina.' Doesn't matter how many times you say it, it never sounds like a word you want to say. It's a totally ridiculous, completely unsexy word. Vaginas. There's so much darkness and secrecy surrounding them - like the Bermuda Triangle. Nobody ever reports back from there."

Audiences, mostly - but not only - women, giggle, laugh, and identify with the stories and with Ensler. And they weep when the monologue, "My Vagina Was My Village," the story of a woman raped in Bosnia, is performed.

"The soldiers put a long thick rifle inside me," the passage reads. "So cold, the steel rod canceling my heart. Don't know whether they're going to fire it or shove it through my spinning brain."

FIRST PERFORMED in 1996, *The Vagina Monologues* has become an international phenomenon, freeing up women's repressed feelings about their sexuality, their negative body images, and their social and political inferiority. In the US, Ensler has enlisted actresses such as Glenn Close, Whoopi Goldberg, Joanne Woodward, Shirley Knight, and Susan Sarandon to perform the Monologues. Worldwide, the play has been performed in nearly two dozen languages in more than 800 cities (including both an English and Hebrew version in Israel).

For most women, the play is a consciousness-raising experience.

For Ensler, it was a catalyst to political action. She created V-Day – the V stands for Violence, Valentine, and Vagina - an organization dedicated to putting an end to violence against women. Through V-Day, millions of dollars from the hit play are transferred to countries all over the world to help women who are victims of violence. In local V-Day benefits, performers raise money for local services to women. V-Day benefits in Israel last year, produced in cooperation with Habimah and Na'amat, raised over NIS 120,000 for battered women's shelters in Tel Aviv.

In its first five years, V-Day has raised over \$14 million and over \$7m. in 2002 alone.

For the past three years, V-Day delegations, led by Ensler, have traveled to dozens of locations, including places as far apart as Kenya, Rome, the Philippines, Brussels, and Kosovo, to meet with girls at risk, victims of domestic violence and war, and to provide encouragement and support for local feminist organizations. In Afghanistan, Ensler wore a burqa (the tent-like cover that women have been forced to wear) for days, to understand women's oppression.

For some members of the delegation, the trip to Israel and Palestine was another stop on this program. But for Ensler the trip had additional meanings. In the US, Ensler is actively involved in the organized Jewish community, and has even been awarded a "Lion of Judah" in recognition of her activities and philanthropic donations. Her life-partner, Ariel Jordan, a psychotherapist and filmmaker, was born and raised here, and they have visited several times before.

The delegations take advantage of the women's prominence to bring attention to the cause, yet Ensler, Fonda, and the other V-Day women tried to avoid press and commotion while they were here and gave few interviews.

"We came to listen and learn," explained Ensler. In five hectic days, they met with women MKs and Palestinian political leaders, peace activists, and members of Hadassah. They talked to artists, authors, and playwrights, at-risk teenage girls, and to physicians and professionals who try to help victims of terror and victims of the occupation.

They visited Neveh Shalom where, under a bubble-tent, led by singer Amal Murkus, they sang "We Shall Overcome" together with the enthusiastic audience. They went to see the wall erected in the middle of the neighborhood of Abu Dis, meant to prevent terrorists from infiltrating into Jerusalem. On a rainy Friday afternoon, they stood with Women in Black to protest the occupation.

At Hadassah Hospital, they met with a young man who suffered brain damage after two suicide bombers blew themselves up in Jerusalem on December 1, 2001. Lying flat on his stomach on a hospital bed, he began speaking again only three months ago.

They crossed the Kalandia checkpoint to see a physical rehabilitation center and meet with Palestinian women in Ramallah. They talked with a woman who lost two sons, both shot by Israeli soldiers.

ENSLER LISTENS intently and actively. Her whole body is engaged. She leans forward, she smiles, she sighs, she exclaims, and she cries. She reacts, giving each woman the feeling that she has been deeply heard. By the end of the trip, she had begun to tentatively articulate her impressions. Ensler has a striking ability to empathize without siding with either side, grasping complexities without resorting to zero-sum analyses.

"Israelis have the power, and the suffering of the powerful is different than the suffering of the weak. Israelis have to accept that the occupation is wrong - and that it's not working. But that must never mean that suicide bombing is acceptable, either," she says.

Extrapolating from the success of her play, Ensler talks about vaginas, monologues, and narratives. To her, these are both concrete images and metaphors for life and change. By taking "the V-word" out of the closet, putting it in front of people, she hopes to release them to deal with other secrets - like violence and rape, fear, and death.

She hopes for creative, vagina-like atmospheres and "vagina-friendly leaders who will reflect the best in us, instead of the leaders we have, who pander to our fears."

"Women must come into power," she continues. Not women who are male-identified, but women who are female-

identified, who are in touch with their vaginas." She believes that by listening to others' narratives, we can begin to understand and to stop treating each other as enemies and as "others."

"I was profoundly sad when I stood by the checkpoints," she says. "Those walls, the checkpoints and the blockades - they are all signs of failure.

"Something fundamental isn't being addressed. Everyone is afraid, and so they look for false promises of security. Those walls can't provide security, and they can't ease your fear. Only resolving the conflict can do that."

The violence, she believes, is a desperate substitute for the grief and fear that people truly feel.

"It is terrifying to grieve. People here think that if they let themselves cry, they will forever, that they will never stop crying. Instead of grief, male leaders provide violence, filled with testosterone. Testosterone does not effective policy make."

SHE USES her own experiences to reach incisive political conclusions, fluidly - she might say vaginally - connecting between personal experience and political implications.

As a child, Enslar was physically, sexually, and emotionally abused by her father. Her activities today, she says, are motivated by her desire to stop being the poor little girl, victimized by her father.

"I was violated and betrayed. But there comes a moment in life when you have to make a fundamental decision if you're going to let your identity coalesce around yourself as victim, and live your life filled with bitterness, suspicion and distrust, or ask if you want to be someone else.

"You come to realize that the wrong will never be made right, what was done can never be undone. You have to decide if you can move on from there, so that something bigger can be born."

In the Middle East, she says, "everyone has been victimized. You have to move beyond that, or continue to die."

Enslar knows that she met only with representatives of the Israeli left and with Palestinian moderates, and that the bubble tent of Neveh Shalom doesn't hold the whole reality of the conflict. Yet she trusts her ability to listen to women's stories.

"I know that there's so much more to hear. The challenge is to find the language that will allow us to listen to each other, and to give everyone here the space to finally feel and to tell their narratives."

Although she says that the details have not been worked out, V-Day is planning to become actively involved in the region. A V-Day benefit is being planned in Ramallah, and another in Israel as well. And while she would not give details, Enslar revealed that they are beginning work on a "large project that will enable women on both sides to tell their narratives."

She describes herself as both sad and hopeful for the region.

"Every woman I talked to in Israel and in Palestine wanted to figure out a way to make things work and stop the suffering. They were all like mothers, who try to support her children and her loved ones, and still support her own integrity, too."

**"When in Rome - A Report from the First V-World Summit"**

***The Nation*, December 2, 2002**

**By Jennifer Baumgardner**

On September 29, while Tony Blair was arguing for Britain to align itself with Bush on war in Iraq, female Labour Party MPs were speaking up for vaginas. In fact, they were doing the first-ever parliamentary performance of Eve Enslar's play, *The Vagina Monologues*. Enslar, who did the unthinkable as an artist by forgoing her royalties on

productions of The Vagina Monologues, offering it free to any campus or community as long as it does the play in its entirety and uses the performance as a fundraiser to benefit antiviolence initiatives, has made it her latest unimaginable goal to end violence by 2005.

When people say to her, "You can't," she responds, "Why?" like a powerful, precocious 4-year-old, replete with Little LuLu hairstyle and a predilection for hearts and boas. The most recent enterprise of Eve and the women of V-Day (the organizing arm and virtual-as in there's no office-foundation that came out of The Vagina Monologues' success) was to call a V-World Summit. On September 20-21 two dozen antiviolence activists from around the world got together in Rome--to share strategies, align their resources and eat gnocchi. The resulting meeting was, like the V-Day phenomenon itself, deeply political while still being fun and girly: Camp David meets Bridal Shower.

After a well-attended press conference presided over by the mayor of Rome, the activists--only three of whom were from the United States, while several had never before left their home country--gathered at a hilltop hotel. The group of women sat in a circle on red cushions, exchanging red or heart-shaped gifts. "Do you know how hard it is to find a red object in Bulgaria after the fall of Communism?" complained Mariana Katzarova, a journalist, as she presented hers.

After Carole Black, the CEO of Lifetime and a major supporter of V-Day, gave everyone sterling heart bracelets from Tiffany, the women went around the room and described their relationship to V-Day. Agnes Pareyio, a round-faced 46-year-old Masai woman, had a story that was typical for this group. For years, she traveled village to village in southwestern Kenya on foot, educating girls about female genital mutilation. Circumcised herself, she urged girls not to get "the cut" and discussed other ways they could mark their transition to adulthood. Her one tool in this mission was a plastic female torso with removable vulva. Pareyio would show a whole vulva, then one without a clitoris (the circumcision ritual in Kenya, recently outlawed but still widespread) and finally a vagina that had been infibulated, which is the removal of labia minora and clitoris and the stitching shut of the vulva, leaving just a tiny hole. (When a girl is married, that pea-sized aperture is expanded to accommodate sex by inserting an animal horn.)

Eve saw Agnes sitting in a field conducting a class two years ago and asked her what V-Day could do to facilitate her work. Agnes said, "If I had a jeep, I could get to many more girls." So they got her a blue jeep with V-Day printed in white on the top, a satellite phone and, this year, gave her \$65,000 for a "safehouse" for girls escaping genital mutilation. A second safehouse might open later this year.

Traditionally, women in Kenya aren't allowed to own property, so the vision of Agnes zipping around the savannah in her jeep, talking on her cell, is sort of like seeing a giraffe in the White House-or The Vagina Monologues in the halls of the British Parliament.

As each woman explained how V-Day "changed her life" (echoing the response women had to Betty Friedan's *The Feminine Mystique* forty years ago), the rest of the activists wiped tears from their cheeks or threw their heads back and howled with laughter or wrinkled their brows in sympathy. Occasionally someone talked about violence in her own life of which she had never spoken, and a woman from across the circle (and literally from a different part of the world) would recognize the story as like her own, run over, squat down and hug her.

Like any important feminist meeting, though, it wasn't all catharsis and bonding. The second day was devoted to developing strategy for eliminating violence, the practical and urgent reason for the summit.

V-Day is misunderstood as merely glitzy entertainment; performances of The Vagina Monologues have been used to marshal millions of dollars and raise consciousness about issues that affect women. These issues are generally under the radar of US politics--such as the Taliban's treatment of women before 9/11. So when I arrived on day two I expected to see the women contemplating laws or analyzing the Constitution of South Africa. Instead, Eve asked them to imagine a "V-World" and posed these kinds of vague questions: "When there is no more violence, will it change your relationship to your identity? To sex? What frightens you about giving up violence? What makes you violent?" Visiting each breakout group, the women themselves--so fierce the day before--suddenly seemed mired in the most simplistic discussions. "In a world without violence, would we still get to have rough sex, or wouldn't we want it anymore?" went one pressing debate among European activists.

Hours later, however, when the women began revealing their V-Day plans for the next two years, an important transformation occurred.

Their ideas were visionary. Rossana Abueva and her partner Monique Wilson, who have organized the V-Days in the Philippines and all over Asia, will spearhead a star-studded event in Tokyo in 2004 to shame the Japanese government into finally apologizing to the 200,000 "comfort women" enslaved and raped by Japanese soldiers during World War II. Eve is going, of course, and they plan to fly in celebrities and as many living comfort women from around the world as they can find, making a connection between the old comfort women and the "new comfort women"--girls who are sex-trafficked. Thus far, more than fifty damage suits have been filed against Japan; most have been rejected. If the V-Day event manages to be as big and splashy as Eve hopes, they could succeed in humiliating the government. Wilson and Abueva pointed out that in Japan, being disgraced can have serious consequences. Thus, the hope is that the V-Day shaming will provide more catharsis for the comfort women than have the UN reports and failed court cases.

Meanwhile, the V-Day 2003 that they are planning in Kabul (which is again unimaginable--vagas and burqas?) will feature Eve, Jane Fonda and any other activist who can get there. The performance will be in a theater in a once-magnificent park in Kabul that is now barren, all of its trees cut down for firewood. Eve wants to bring in women from around the world to plant red flora in the park before the show.

Shabnam Hashmi, from New Delhi, isn't doing a V-Day, but she requested that activists come to Gujarat, the site in western India of horrific ethnic cleansing of Muslims that has been largely ignored or tolerated by the media and the government. "We'll come," said Eve. "When do you need us?"

Watching her in action, it's hard not to be impressed by Eve and V-Day--yet her grandiosity irks many, feminists included. They worry that she is self-promoting, or that her "Let's end violence in eight years" plot is naïve. That's all beside the point, though. The salient question is, "Is V-Day effective in liberating women and ending violence?" The answer to that query is "yes"--and at a time when people tend to dismiss the women's movement as a thing of the 1970s, V-Day boasts 1,281 events around the world and \$14 million raised in the past few years. It grants more money to antiviolence initiatives than the UN Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) does; this year, UNIFEM has dedicated \$1 million to be divided among twenty-two countries. (On November 25, the UN-decreed International Day to End Violence Against Women, UNIFEM is bringing together four international activists who have made concrete strides in ending violence against women--and Eve will be on hand, too.)

Meanwhile, the women in that room in Rome had a hand in saving hundreds, if not thousands, of girls from genital mutilation. A 16-year-old Guatemalan girl named Valerie Lopez helped get her sister Marsha out of an abusive relationship--and the two (with their mother) went on to produce a sellout performance of *The Vagina Monologues* in Guatemala City. Noelle Colome organized a V-Day in San Francisco that raised half a million dollars. V-Day focused on Afghanistan last year and raised \$173,000 to benefit Afghan women, in addition to the \$120,000 raised so far. And V-Day isn't simply focusing on women "out there," ignoring the problems in our own backyard. This year the spotlight is on "Indian Country" -- Native American reservations, among the poorest places in the United States. Next month, a V-Day delegation will travel to Egypt, Jordan and the Middle East to talk with female peace activists. V-Day intends to bring media attention to these inspiring but overlooked activists and convey their strategies for peace to policy-makers in the United States.

V-Day has other grand and galling plans: "We are launching the 1 Percent Campaign in February [2003]," announced Eve during the Saturday strategizing session, sitting cross-legged on her cushion. "We are calling for every country with a military budget to donate 1 percent of the budget to ending violence against women." In the United States, that would be somewhere around \$4 billion. "That's far too much to ask for," gasped an American woman who lives in Milan and provided the decadent dinners for the group each night. "Well, I started off thinking we should ask for 20 percent," said Eve, laughing.

The most profound contribution of V-Day, though, might be simply saying the word and performing the piece. It plays differently around the world, but there isn't a hunk of land anywhere where it's uncontroversial. Irene Ndaya Martine Nobote from Lubumbashi, Democratic Republic of Congo, was arrested for staging a production of *The Vagina Monologues*; other women have had to face injunctions and restraining orders, the scorn of their peers and their own fears. "I wish I could say I was with V-Day from the very beginning," Jane Fonda said at the summit's



press conference. The woman unafraid of going to Hanoi against her government's wishes turned down an opportunity to perform The Vagina Monologues because she was terrified of saying "vagina." All these fearless activists nodded their heads when Fonda admitted that "I was afraid to name my most core part." Overcoming her fear has meant huge transformations in Fonda's own life and undying loyalty to V-Day--which means not just her presence in Rome but more than \$1 million in donations.

Janet Kiarie of Nairobi, Kenya, had a different click of consciousness. She was enlisted by Agnes Pareyio to host a V-Day last year. She read the monologues aloud with her colleagues in the women's movement, but they all concluded that there would be too much backlash: "It felt just wrong talking about our vaginas," Kiarie recalled. "I resigned from helping with V-Day" and, instead, just hosted a meeting for Eve and others traveling from the United States. After the meeting, Kiarie went home and asked her 7-year-old daughter if she knew what "down there" was. Her daughter didn't know the word for vagina--not in English and not in Kikuyu, her own language. "That's when I realized I was depriving her of her own sexuality in some way," said Kiarie, "by being afraid of my own." If we needed any more evidence that the personal is political, this is it.

### **“Haven for Kenyan Women Opens” Associated Press, April 9, 2002**

Narok, Kenya (AP) -- In the heart of Kenya, 16-year-old Mary Solio has found refuge from a forced marriage but not from female circumcision – two cultural traditions that some women in her tribe are working to change.

Most of the 61 Maasai girls who arrived last week at the V-Day Safe House for Girls came for a short course on the consequences of female circumcision. But 14 of them, including 16-year-old Solio, have sought refuge in the haven that was formally opened Monday by Eve Ensler, author of "The Vagina Monologues," the widely produced play about women and their bodies.

A year ago, Solio's parents forced her to undergo circumcision, a Maasai rite of passage. Within weeks she was married to a man more than three times her age, another common Maasai tradition. Four months later, she fled into the forest, alone and, unknown to her at the time, pregnant.

She spent the next seven months at a girls school outside this small dusty town, about 110 kilometers (68 miles) west of Nairobi, fighting off attempts by her husband and family to force her home. Two weeks ago, her baby was born. Now she lives at the safe house, where her baby will be cared for while she attends school.

The project is the brainchild of Agnes Pareyio, a 45-year-old Maasai woman who began visiting villages throughout southwestern Kenya a decade ago to educate women about the dangers of female circumcision. As a member of a local village council, Pareyio noticed that many girls were dropping out of school in their early teens and discovered it was because of circumcision and marriage.

"When the girls get circumcised, they are considered women, they can't go to school anymore," she said. "... If they are married, they must stay home and take care of their husbands."

In Maasai circumcision, the clitoris is removed, usually without anesthesia. Some women bled to death during the procedure, and others were infected with the HIV virus that causes AIDS via unclean razor blades, Pareyio said. She set out with a large plastic model of a vagina to educate to older women and their daughters about the dangers of female circumcision.

Ensler met Pareyio on a trip to Kenya two years ago and said it was clear the Maasai woman's "pure will was changing this culture ... freeing women."

So Ensler began financing Pareyio's campaign, first buying her a vehicle so she could visit more villages, then providing the \$65,000 for the safe haven - two cinder block buildings with rooms for the girls, offices and a cafeteria. Another is in the works.

"We don't want to be some outsiders coming in here and telling people what to do, how to behave," said Ensler. "The only way things really change is when people from that culture work to change it."

An estimated 130 million women, most of them in Africa, have been subjected to ritual genital cutting. The number is believed to grow by up to 2 million each year. The procedure ranges from clipping or burning the clitoris to cutting off all the outer labia and sewing closed the remaining tissue, leaving only a tiny opening.

The practice is illegal in 18 countries, nine of them in Africa. It was outlawed in Kenya earlier this year but is still widespread.

Although figures are not available on the number of Kenyan Maasai women circumcised each year, Pareyio says she has seen attitudes begin to change among the cattle herders.

"Circumcision is very much part of Maasai culture, it will not change in a quick amount of time." Pareyio said. "But look here today, we have 60 girls who will not be circumcised, who will not be forced into marriage. That is a change."

**"Eve Ensler Uses the V Word"**  
***Newsweek*, February 18, 2002**  
**By Marc Peyser**

**It was one thing for a play about women's private parts to become a hit. Can 'The Vagina Monologues' sing the body electric on TV?**

Say what you will about "The Vagina Monologues," it is certainly truth in advertising. Vaginas. Monologues. No intermission. Which is why what happened one night in Boston last month was so surprising. After author Eve Ensler performed the first few monologues--the aptly named "Hair," "The Flood" and "Because He Liked to Look at It" sections--a group of forty something women near the front started whispering. "I finally stopped the show and said, 'Ladies, what's going on?' " says Ensler. "And they said, 'We thought we were going to a musical.'" The audience got hysterical. The musical women elected to stay. And Ensler continued, on to "My Angry Vagina," "The Little Coochi Snorcher That Could" and, finally, "The Woman Who Loved to Make Vaginas Happy." That's the one where Ensler goes into full orgasm mode, moaning in more dialects than there are in China: the elegant moan, the Jewish moan, the Grace Slick moan, the machine-gun moan. "Well, ladies," Ensler said as she finished, "you finally got your musical."

And now for the encore. Despite what some women in Boston don't know, "The Vagina Monologues"-- a show made up entirely of women chatting about their most private part--is one of the biggest theater successes in years. Six productions of the show are now playing nationwide. It has also been performed in 31 other countries and translated into 26 languages, though it's hard to imagine how you might say "coochi snorcher" in Korean. This week "The Vagina Monologues" breaks into dangerous new territory: television. Well, maybe only semi-dangerous. It's on HBO, which is hardly a stranger to anatomically correct dialogue. Interestingly, HBO decided to do its film starring Ensler, as opposed to any of the A-list celebrities--Calista Flockhart, Marisa Tomei and Edie Falco, to name only a few--who've performed in the show over the years. "I really wanted it to be more grass-roots and reflect the women I had interviewed," says Ensler, who also talks with some of those women in the TV version. "I think it was very brave of HBO to do it. It's a political piece. There's nothing scarier at this point in our culture than political work."

All of which raises a question: how did the word "vagina" end up in NEWSWEEK? In other words, how did a piece of performance art about women's unmentionables go mainstream? A big part of the reason is the taboo factor itself. "No one had ever talked about this before," says Ensler, who was a little-known "downtown" writer before she created the monologues in 1996. "When women realized they had permission to scream about having a clitoris, they went crazy." Certainly the celebrities helped, too. "Eve said, 'Will you do this?' And I said, 'Oh, my God. You mean say those things in public?' " says Tomei, one of the first to sign on. "But saying those words night after night, it works magic on you. It gets inside your skin." Contrary to what you might think about hearing "vagina" 128 times in

one evening--and that doesn't include its unprintable synonyms--"The Vagina Monologues" isn't at all heavy. In fact, as you listen to the story of a tax lawyer turned dominatrix or an old woman who hasn't thought about "down there" since a teenage boyfriend humiliated her, the sexual nature of the show somehow becomes universal. And it's a riot. "What Eve brought back to feminism was she made it fun," says producer David Stone. "It almost sounds frivolous, but feminism became a burden, something that had to be talked about in a strident and passionate way. This is not only funny, it's fun. That's liberating."

Perhaps the group that's been most liberated by "The Vagina Monologues" has been younger women. Students at 550 colleges will soon perform the show for **V-Day**, a nonprofit organization that produces benefits which, combined with money generated by the show's productions, are expected to raise \$6 million this year for women's organizations. "**V-Day** is an institution on colleges campuses," says Ensler. "They literally have vagina meetings. Wesleyan has a c--t club." A good deal of the credit for that goes to Ensler, a straight-talking New Yorker in an Anna Wintour bob. It's no accident that she performs every show wearing a sexy black dress and no shoes. "She's up there in bare feet, and she's so exposed. She looks so beautiful," says Willa Shalit, executive director of **V-Day**. "Young girls look at her and say, 'That's kind of cool. I wouldn't mind being like that!'"

That's not to say "The Vagina Monologues" doesn't make some people nervous. Last year the Albany, N.Y., Times Union, a Hearst paper, refused to run a "Vagina" ad, even though Patricia Hearst herself was doing the show in New Haven. And when Donna Hanover, Rudy Giuliani's estranged wife, performed in New York in 2000, she touched off a minor political earthquake. "I don't think it ever stops being controversial," says Ensler. "We're not in a world yet where people are like, 'vagina, vagina, vagina!'" Still, the show has broken through in a remarkable number of places. Designer Liz Claiborne has created a "**V**" necklace, with proceeds benefiting the **V-Day** charities. There was even an episode of CBS's "Everybody Loves Raymond" where Ray's mother makes a vagina-like sculpture in art class. "When I first did the show, CNN did a 10-minute piece and never mentioned the name," says Ensler. "Then they did it again recently and couldn't stop saying it."

Now that she's made the world safe for genitalia, Ensler is moving on. After a few performances in San Francisco, she won't appear in "The Vagina Monologues" anymore. "The play is behind me now in what I want to say," she says. "It feels like I'm retelling something, as opposed to saying something new." Ensler's next piece, "Necessary Targets," opens in New York this week. It's about a writer (not unlike Ensler) and a therapist who counsel women in Bosnia on overcoming the war. Despite her "Vagina" fame, it took Ensler years to get the play staged. "I said to a producer once, 'Tell me, what's wrong with the play?' And he said, 'Two words: Bosnian refugees'," she says. After that comes an even more political piece. It's called "The Good Body," a sort of companion to "The Vagina Monologues" for which Ensler talked to women around the world. "I'm looking at how women fix their bodies, whether it's liposuction or scrubbing, genital mutilation, nose jobs or vulva surgery in Beverly Hills," she says. Vulva surgery? "It's the funniest monologue I've ever written," Ensler says. Let's see someone do a sitcom about that.

#### **"800 Events Promote V-Day from Antarctica to Zaire"**

*Women's Enews, February 14, 2002*

**By Chris Lombardi**

Agnes Pareyio has been traveling around Kenya for years with a vagina in her hand.

The vagina in question, made of wood, can be separated into its component parts, and Pareyio uses it to demonstrate the effects of female genital Mutilation, commonly known as "female circumcision." Until recently, she traveled from village to village on foot, and it took her a year just to traverse the territory west of the Kenyan capital of Nairobi. This year, for the first time, Pareyio has a sport-utility vehicle, allowing her to cover in three months what once took her a year. She's also opening a safe house to shelter the girls fleeing families who insist they go through with the perilous ritual.

Meanwhile, in China and Malaysia, a pair of brave young women await word from government censors about March performances of "The Vagina Monologues," a series of sketches that, with their frank portrayals of women's feelings

about their vaginas, has become a key source of funding for violence-prevention programs around the world. If approved, the Beijing performance would benefit the country's Domestic Violence Network and Red Maple Counseling Center, both new organizations in a country where abuse of women is rarely confronted or discussed.

And in the far Northern California town of Ukiah, a rural community known best for its confrontations between logging communities and environmentalists, residents are consumed by "vagina fever," an exhibition of vagina-themed quilts overtaking the town square and a local domestic violence network set to benefit from it all.

Welcome to V-Day 2002

Tonight, the HBO premiere of "The Vagina Monologues" continues a month of performances around the world organized by V-Day, an organization born of the enormous response to the play of the same name, originally written and performed by Eve Ensler. Last year, most of V-Day's attention focused on a star-studded extravaganza at Madison Square Garden in New York; this year, 800 events from Zaire to Antarctica will run from Jan. 23 to March 8. On that last day, International Women's Day, "Monologues" playwright Ensler will arrive in Kabul, Afghanistan--not undercover as she did in 1999, when she was researching the plight of Afghan women but as a public figure presenting a satellite-phone system to the new Afghan Ministry for Women's Affairs.

In this way, V-Day's fusion of art and politics performs an end run around squabbling legislators and United Nations consensus processes by directing energy, attention and resources to strategies for women's survival. Last year, the network of V-Day performances raised about \$350,000, according to Cecile Lipworth, managing director of V-Day's worldwide campaign; this year, with 91,000 theater seats, V-Day is set to pull in \$2 million. All that in addition to corporate sponsors such as Lifetime Television, Fairmont Hotels and Resorts, and Tampax, funding the organizing work that in turn has energized 800 communities to pick up the ball to raise funds for local groups fighting violence.

It All Began in Bosnia

V-Day grew out of Ensler's passionate response to the revelations about Bosnian "rape camps," in which women were held and systematically raped by Serbian soldiers in the early 1990s. Rada Boric, director of the Center for Women War Victims in Zagreb, Croatia, and now "almost a sister" to Ensler, remembers that the playwright, on assignment in a refugee camp for The New York Times, ended up staying for weeks, "making coffee and crying." The result was the play "Necessary Targets," which was staged in 1995 as a benefit performance at the Kennedy Center in Washington, with former Secretary of State Madeleine Albright "sobbing in the front aisle," says Boric. At that moment, the show's producer, Willa Shalit, realized that Ensler was the partner she had been looking for to link art and social change. "Monologues," which Ensler wrote next, featured "My Vagina was a Forest," from the heartbreaking testimony of one of Boric's clients.

Everywhere Ensler performed "Monologues," women approached her with their own stories of abuse. Finally, in 1997, she declared that she would have to stop performing it "if we didn't do something to end violence against women and girls, like I knew too much and couldn't keep going. And that's why we started V-Day."

Colleges, Communities Powering Local Efforts and Winning Prizes

During the first year of V-Day events in 1998, 65 colleges in the United States and Canada staged "Monologues"; this year, 543 colleges and universities around the world will mount productions of the play, raising funds to support existing programs, like women's centers and shelters, and for new, creative initiatives, such as the \$500 Howard University raised to buy new underwear for women seeking help at its rape crisis center.

On the international level, many organizers are contending with a host of concerns in addition to the near-universal reality of rape and battering. In Manila, the Philippines, where powerhouse organizer and actor Monique Wilson obtained government permission by doing a performance of "Monologues" for the officials in charge, the proceeds from the 8,000-seat performance will go primarily to efforts to combat sex trafficking; an estimated 700,000 women are trafficked via the Philippines annually, according to Worldwide Campaign managing director Lipworth. In South Africa, government resistance was trumped by the first well-publicized incident of "baby rape" in 2001, in

which HIV-positive men raped girls younger than 10 on the assumption that the girls were free of the virus and would therefore cure them. "The whole country woke up," says Lipworth, herself a South African national. "They said 'Oh my God, we have to do something.'"

All participants in V-Day must agree to either start or fund local efforts. If they're looking for a new project to fund, they needn't look much further than V-Day's "Stop Rape" contest, now in its second year. Last year, winners included a Brazilian street-theatre troupe focusing on domestic violence and a German group's proposal for baked goods with anti-rape slogans.

"What's kind of heartening is how many of the ideas overlap," says Karen Obel, director of the College Campaign, which held its own, separate contest this year. Among the winners in this year's contest are the Pink Coats, a highly visible, all-women bodyguard service to accompany women crossing Western Washington University's campus. The winners of the international contest will be announced on Saturday at V-Day's gala fund-raising performance in New York, which will feature a star-studded cast that includes the actors Jane Fonda and Rosie Perez.

"War, War, War: Where are the Women?"

On her way to Afghanistan, Enslar will stop in New York for the re-opening of "Necessary Targets." Last December, reflecting Enslar's longtime commitment to the plight of women under the Taliban and beyond, a run of "Targets" at the Hartford Stage in Connecticut hosted a group of Afghan women who had just met one another in Brussels, a meeting coordinated by V-Day with Equality Now, an international organization advocating for women's rights.

Long before the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, Enslar was reporting in Afghanistan under cover of a burqa, returning "with articles no one would publish. Nobody cared." One monologue, "Under the Burqa," was performed by Oprah Winfrey at last year's event, highlighting the brutalization and starvation of women conducted as a matter of Taliban policy. Then the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center focused attention on Afghanistan for the first time in years.

The terrorism on Sept. 11, Enslar and Shalit say, was a window exposing the dangers of violent oppression of women. "We're in a very dangerous shape as a human species," Enslar says. On Sept. 11, she says, "the window opened for a moment and we all saw it together." In that moment, Enslar and Shalit say, the White House and Congress were talking about--and listening to--Afghan women. Now, the infrastructure Enslar is helping build can assist women in keeping and gaining the public's attention.

For example, Enslar's upcoming trip to Afghanistan will provide some of the infrastructure for Dr. Sima Samar, Deputy Prime Minister and head of the newly created Ministry for Women's Affairs, that international aid hasn't provided. "We're bringing in four satellite phones. With cellular re-chargers, because electricity is so unreliable there," Shalit says.

At the end of V-Day celebrations, the phones will be there. So will the Kenyan safe-house for women fleeing genital mutilation; safe-houses for trafficked women in Sri Lanka and Zagreb; and the first-ever battered-women's shelter on Lakota land near Rapid City, S.D., where U.S. law enforcement cannot provide protection to survivors of domestic violence. All this in addition to a million conversations, a thousand vagina quilts, hundreds of rape crisis centers that can continue operating with the funds raised by V-Day.

Meanwhile, Shalit and Enslar are looking toward the next revolution to start with the revival of "Necessary Targets," which Shalit hopes will have an impact on the current war fever in the United States.

"Everyone's talking war, war, war," she says, "but where are the women?"

Chris Lombardi is a freelance writer in New York. She coordinated Women's Enews' Fall 2000 election coverage and helped cover the Beijing + 5 conference on women. Her work has been published in Ms. Magazine, the Progressive and Inside MS.

**“V-Day Fights Rape, Battery”**  
*San Francisco Examiner, November 16, 2001*

Award-winning playwright Eve Ensler has used her play, "The Vagina Monologues," to raise millions of dollars for non-profit groups aiming to end violence against women and girls around the world.

Her group V-Day -- a charity that fights rape, battery, incest, female-genital mutilation and slavery -- receives money through benefit performances.

Ensler this week announced V-Day San Francisco 2002's benefit show: On Feb. 12, Ensler, Calista Flockhart, Rosie Perez and other stars will perform the Monologues in the Masonic Auditorium. Proceeds will go directly to local women's groups.

**Adrienne Sanders: Why is your show so popular?**

**Eve Ensler:** Any time you really bust open a taboo, people get excited.

**Q. What surprised you about it?**

**A.** It was really surprising after so many years of feminism how few women loved their vaginas. It's taken so many years for people to calm down and say the word. I mean, anthrax is on a full page in any given paper and that's less scary than vagina?

Equally surprising was to see how excited women got once they began thinking about them.

**Q. What do audiences tell you about the show?**

**A.** I'm always surprised when women tell me they've never had an orgasm and they're never going to fake it again. I've had men come up to me and tell me they wish they had a vagina.

**Q. Tell me about V-Day 2002 and the Monologues.**

**A.** The whole thing is going local. We're bringing V-Day into small communities everywhere. It's as varied as Manila and Romania to Milwaukee.... One of the things we're trying to create is self-empowerment so people use the Vagina Monologues to serve their own ends.

**Q. What's happening in San Francisco?**

**A.** San Francisco is definitely going to be one of the bigger events. I'll be performing there and we'll have a lot of wonderful actors at the event. San Francisco was so incredibly supportive of the Vagina Monologues... In the HBO special, I tell which cities are vagina-friendly zones, vagina-holiday zones. San Francisco is a vagina world fair zone.

**Q. What in your background contributed to your current work?**

**A.** I've always been feminist and I suffered violence early on. I know how much work I've had to do to overcome it and I don't want other women to have to do the same.

**Q. How did the connection of V-Day with the show come about?**

**A.** I went around the world to communities and met V warriors who were really brave to bring the show there. It was so grass roots then, people would just line up after the show to tell me how they'd been beaten or raped. And I just started to feel insane. And I said, "Either I'm going to stop doing the show or we're going to figure out a way to end violence against women."

And the first year we invited all these great actors like Glenn Close, Susan Sarandon and Whoopie Goldberg and they agreed to come perform to raise consciousness for V-Day. We raised a few hundred thousand dollars and that kind of launched V-Day.

**Q. How do you find the groups?**

**A.** They find us. V-Day is really about attraction and not promotion. Suddenly, we'll get a call from China. This year it will be performed for 8,000 people in the Philippines.

**Q. How are funds distributed internationally?**

**A.** I go around the world and see the work they do. Right now, activists in Kosovo took a Monologue piece and they turned it into a rock song in Albanian. It's really popular.

We're opening a safe house in the Masai Valley in Kenya where girls can run to save their clitoris. We're in the process of opening a safe house on Sioux land in South Dakota.

**Q. What has been the most difficult part of your work?**

**A.** Emotionally exposing oneself to all the terrible things that are going on to women around the world. And the struggle to convince people that violence against women matters. I encounter resistance everywhere.

Every year at V-Days I ask the women in the audience to stand up if they've ever been raped or beaten. At Madison Square Garden last year, about 9,000 women stood... Seeing the internalized shame after you've been brutalized is the most disturbing thing.

**Q. What are your thoughts on the terrorist bombings?**

**A.** Women are scary because we're so powerful. We know so much that we don't utilize. We feel so much that we discount. We have solutions to a lot of things we don't trust.

I do not think most women would have sent bombs in response to the terrorist bombings.

I think we're more complex than that. We would have seen a solution in a much more complex way.

**Q. What would you have liked to have seen instead?**

**A.** Well I think something is being revealed to us right now on the planet. There is a serious situation and I think it's opened a huge door. Do we want to keep inventing enemies and see ourselves as threatened by the world?

One is a very male way of seeing the world. The other is very female. I would like us to look at the big questions: poverty, how women are being treated around the world, what's going on with Israel. And I don't see OBL has been caught -- it reminds me so much of Iraq and Saddam Hussein.

**Q. What's up next for you?**

**A.** I'm working on a play called "The Good Body" which is a piece about how they shape, fix, mutilate, hide their bodies in order to fit in with their particular culture. And then I'm doing a series of monologues based on interviews with teenage girls.

The Vagina Monologues is coming to HBO on Valentine's Day, which is so exciting.

**SELECTED PRESS RELEASES**  
(additional press releases are available at [www.vday.org](http://www.vday.org))



**V-Day 2004 "Celebrating Vagina Warriors" is the Movement's Biggest Year in its Seven-Year History:  
Over 2300 Events and Campaigns Raise \$5 Million and Generate Global Awareness (2004)  
Over 5000 V-Day Events in 76 Countries Since Inception in 1998**

June 07, 2004 – Today, V-Day announced that its 2004 season (January –March 2004) was the global movement's biggest awareness and fundraising year to date with over \$5 million dollars raised. The theme for the 2004 season "Celebrating Vagina Warriors" was reflected throughout the high profile series of V-Day benefits, events and campaigns. Key 2004 highlights included the first documentary about the movement "Until The Violence Stops;" the V-Day and Amnesty International March on Juarez, Mexico to honor the over 300 missing and murdered women and to support the families and groups working for justice; the two-week intensive V-Day 2004 Visit to India: Celebrating the Indian Woman Warrior featuring events in Mumbai, Himachal, and Delhi; and over 2,300 V-Day 2004 benefit productions of "The Vagina Monologues" in February and March in 1,100 communities and colleges worldwide benefiting local community anti-violence programs.

In mounting its annual campaigns, V-Day draws inspiration from the thousands of Vagina Warriors – volunteers, activists, sponsors, media, and supporters – who work worldwide to end violence against women and girls in their communities. Each V-Day event helps a woman tell her story, inspires others to give, engages the local media, enables women to expand their networks, and encourages entire communities to act together to end violence against women.

**Highlights of V-Day 2004 "Celebrating Vagina Warriors"  
"UNTIL THE VIOLENCE STOPS"**

Directed by first time director Abby Epstein, UNTIL THE VIOLENCE STOPS documents how "The Vagina Monologues" grew into an international grassroots movement called V-Day to stop violence against women and girls. In 2002, eight hundred cities around the world participated in V-Day by staging benefit performances of The Vagina Monologues. UNTIL THE VIOLENCE STOPS shows women from locations as diverse as Harlem, Ukiah, California, the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation, the Philippines, and Kenya, uniting and courageously revealing their intimate and deeply painful experiences with abuse ranging from rape to female circumcision. In emotionally charged interviews and performances, everyday and celebrity women such as Rosie Perez, Salma Hayek, Tattoo Cardinal, Jane Fonda, and LisaGay Hamilton embrace their bodies, reconcile their pasts, and bond together to break the silence that surrounds abuse. More than just testimonies and performances, UNTIL THE VIOLENCE STOPS is a film about empowerment and the importance of dialogue in the healing process. A celebration of women reclaiming their bodies

- The documentary world premiered at the Sundance Film Festival on January 17, with two additional screenings added due to popular demand. Vagina marketing became all the rage at Sundance with Vagina Warrior ski caps becoming the in demand item for Park City attendees.
- Six U.S. communities hosted benefit screenings to raise funds and awareness for local groups working to end violence against women and girls: Santa Fe, NM; San Francisco and Ukiah, CA; Miami (Film Festival); Atlanta, GA; White Plains, NY.
- The documentary premiered February 17, commercial free on Lifetime Television, with nearly 1 million viewers. Immediately after the east coast broadcast, Tampax hosted the first-ever live V-Day web-cast from The University of Tulsa (OK), where thousands of women and men logged on to ask Eve and V-Day questions about the film and the movement.
- Media coverage of the documentary appeared in hundreds of national and local broadcast and print outlets



including CNN, TODAY, NPR, PEOPLE, TV Guide, USATODAY.com and many more. V-Day supporters Jane Fonda and Glenn Close joined Eve for television, radio and print interviews and junkets. Early reports from our print monitoring service found over 400 articles from February 1-29, 2004 reaching over 50 million people.

**SPOTLIGHT ON JUAREZ, INTERNATIONAL MARCH ON JUAREZ, MEXICO** Through the Mexico City production of "The Vagina Monologues," direct support to Casa Amiga and other grassroots groups, and the efforts of thousands of activists, V-Day has been working throughout Mexico and internationally to raise awareness about the missing and murdered women of Juarez. For V-Day 2004, Juarez was our Spotlight issue placing the issue in front of millions in the U.S. and internationally through the over 2000 V-Day benefits that took place in February - March. While there have been victories in terms of awareness and discussions, the struggle is not over as more bodies have recently been found and the murders remain unsolved.

"The City of Murdered Women," V-Day Founder/Playwright Eve Ensler's essay on the missing and murdered women of Ciudad Juarez, appeared in the March issue of Marie Claire magazine.

- Working closely with Amnesty International, V-Day placed stories on the issue in PEOPLE, the Los Angeles Times, CosmoGIRL and more.
- On February 13 the V-Day delegation – including Congresswomen Jan Schakowsky (IL) and Hilda Solis (CA), Jane Fonda, Sally Field, Christine Lahti, Lifetime Television CEO Carole Black, PBS CEO Pat Mitchell, Lifetime EVP Public Affairs Meredith Wagner – met with mothers whose daughters have been murdered or are missing; immediately following the American Consulate hosted a reception welcoming the V-Day community to Juarez to support our efforts to raise awareness and to end the violence against women in Juarez. The newly appointed special prosecutors met with Eve and members of the delegation to discuss changes and progress – or the lack of – in these cases
- On V-Day, February 14, over 7,000 people traveled to Juarez - thousands crossing the bridge from neighboring El Paso, TX - to stand up for the women of Juarez.
- Following the march, thousands gathered for a community luncheon in advance of the historic, first performance of "The Vagina Monologues" in Juarez by a bilingual cast included Lilia Aragon, Marinitia Escobedo, Laura Flores, Monica Alicia Juarez, Jane Fonda, Sally Field and Christine Lahti.
- The march and the performance garnered international media coverage, saturating the U.S., UK, Mexico and Latin America via CNN, Univision, Telemundo, local ABC, CBS, NBC stations, Agence France Presse, Associated Press, BBC, The Guardian, the Sunday Times and more.
- VICTORY! On March 8 V-Day was notified by a local community organization in Juarez that as a result of the March on Juarez the Chihuahua State's Attorney had resigned.

**V-DAY INDIA 2004: CELEBRATING THE INDIAN WOMAN WARRIOR** Through V-Day Special Representative Hibaq Osman's leadership and vision, art and activism united to end violence against women in India. A V-Day delegation, along with star supporters Jane Fonda and Marisa Tomei, traveled to India March 8-20 to celebrate South Asian women's activism.

- A gala benefit production of "The Vagina Monologues" was staged on International Women's Day (March 8) in Mumbai. The Indian cast, along with Jane, Marisa and Eve wowed the standing room only audience.
- The V-Day delegation toured a SNEHA (Society for Nutrition, Education and Health Action) hospital/shelter in the largest slum in Mumbai. SNEHA was a beneficiary of the V-Day Mumbai event and is now a V-Day awardee.
- V-Day met with representatives of Citibank in Mumbai who are supporting the work of several groups working to end violence against women and girls followed by a 14-hour (one-way) bus journey to the state of Himachal, near Dharamsala (the Tibetan seat of government) to support Jagori, the host organization in Delhi, to celebrate the opening of their new learning center for women and girls. During the stay at the Norbulingka Institute (founded by the Dalai Lama with a mission is to preserve Tibetan culture) the group visited the Buddhist nunnery and lit 1001 candles as a blessing for the learning center and for peace and non-violence.
- In Delhi, V-Day, along with Jagori and SANGAT, hosted a three-day conference: "Confronting Violence: Recounting Resistance, Envisioning Justice." The conference objective was to analyze how feminists have faced Violence Against Women, what connections have been made with other phenomena like communalism, fundamentalisms, globalization, privatization etc. A dynamic group of over 70 women from South Asian (including Sri Lanka, Afghanistan, Pakistan, China, Nepal, Bangladesh, and India) attended the conference. Eve performed a one-woman show of "The Vagina Monologues" for conference attendees and special guests that brought down the house.

- V-Day co-sponsored an evening of Women Artists for Justice, Harmony and Peace, a concert in an open-air venue. The voices of youth, the dancing of women, the strength of poetry and Eve's powerful words were a beautiful, celebratory way to end V-Day India 2004.
- Indian print, radio and television media covered the trip two weeks in advance with multiple stories on the celebrities, the events, and the activist conference. Throughout the visit Indian media saturated the message of V-Day's mission to end violence against women via interviews with Eve, Hibaaq Osman, Jane Fonda and Marisa Tomei.

(A full report from V-Day Special Representative, Hibaaq Osman, will be released this summer.)

**2,300 V-DAY EVENTS IN 1,100 COMMUNITIES** Through V-Day campaigns, local volunteers and college students produced annual benefit performances of "The Vagina Monologues" to raise awareness and funds for anti-violence groups within their own communities. Since V-Day launched its very first event in 1998, the movement has encountered incredible women working to end violence against women and girls in their communities.

These women have often experienced violence personally or witnessed it within their communities and dedicated themselves toward ending such violence through effective, grassroots means. They have been the very heart of V-Day. This year, V-Day's 2004 events and campaigns celebrated these women whom Eve has dubbed 'Vagina Warriors.' V-Day productions around the world selected and honored Vagina Warriors in its own community.

- Eve's solo performance to a sold-out, SRO audience in Tulsa, OK benefited The Spirits of Hope: A Coalition Addressing Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault and Stalking in Oklahoma Indian Country. After Eve's performance Jane Fonda performed "Emotional Creature," a new piece written by Eve.
- The first-ever transgendered V-Day was staged in Los Angeles. It was a spectacular evening of celebration, performance and education about the horrific violence that transgendered women endure. A highlight of the evening was the performance of a new piece by Eve written specifically for the event, "He Beat the Girl Out of My Boy...Or So He Tried."
- In March, models, actresses and politicians joined together to stage V-Day Nairobi, a performance of "The Vagina Monologues" benefiting the Rape Crisis Centre at the Nairobi Women's Hospital in Nairobi and the V-Day Safe House, the first safe house in Kenya for girls running away from early marriages and female genital mutilation.
- In an event of corporate activism, V-Day LUNA (Luna Bar, a V-Day sponsor) united corporate employees and community members – including Tiffany Schlain of Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness – in two sold out benefit performances of "The Vagina Monologues" that raised close to \$20,000 and celebrated vaginas in the boardroom.
- Eve supported Amnesty International's London launch of a two year Stop Violence Against Women Campaign with AI Secretary General Irene Kahn and actor Patrick Stewart. The event received worldwide media coverage.
- V-Day Europe launched on February 14. With the support of the European Commission, national coordinators in the UK, France, Germany and Luxembourg have joined forces to promote V-Day in Europe. Between 14 February and mid-March, V-Day performances of "The Vagina Monologues" took place in Trier, Saarbrücken, Frankfurt am Main, Bochum and Bremen, in Paris, Brest and other cities in France. To mark International Women's Day, an international team in Esch-sur-Alzette in Luxembourg hosted a V-Festival throughout the month of March 2004 with a wide range of women's art events, performances of "The Vagina Monologues" in French and German and culminating in a transnational, multilingual V-Day performance on 14 March 2004 that brought together all European partners in a celebration of the movement. On March 8 at London V-Day Westminster, the first ever performance of "The Vagina Monologues" by women politicians of all political parties, took place. MPs including Joan Ruddock, Caroline Spelman, Sandra Gidley and Oona King, as well as the Home Office minister Caroline Flint, performed alongside Jerry Hall, Meera Syal and Anita Roddick before a packed audience at the Criterion Theatre in London! In addition, there were over 70 local performances across the UK.
- Overall media coverage of local V-Day 2004 events continues to grown in campus and regional papers. Events receive major local coverage as well as placement in key papers such as The Boston Globe and Chicago Tribune and on local TV stations nationwide.

Also of note in 2004 are the V-Day events that did not happen – Beijing, China; Chennai, India; and on select Catholic college campuses. In Beijing, China, authorities shut down a production of 'The Vagina Monologues'

translated into Chinese. International media - including The New York Times - covered the banning reporting that the Chinese character for vagina is half anatomical and half vulgar. Despite a successful staging earlier in the week in Mumbai, in the southern Indian city of Chennai, a local police commissioner banned the V-Day India 2004 benefit production of "The Vagina Monologues" scheduled to include Jane Fonda and Marisa Tomei, claiming that the play posed a threat to public order. Indian media covered the story extensively as well as the performance and events in Mumbai and Delhi.

In the U.S., the Cardinal Newman Society continued its campaign against V-Day benefits at Catholic colleges. Several V-Day productions at Catholic Colleges and Universities moved to off campus locations. As in previous years, these negative efforts - which are the minority considering that 1100 communities staged successful V-Day benefits - generated considerable publicity about the play and the issue of violence against women in local and national media including USA Today.

As the 7th V-Day season comes to an end, V-Day thanks the thousands of women and men activists – the true vagina warriors worldwide – who brought V-Day into their communities, raising funds and awareness, and making sure that not another woman or girl will experience violence. Since V-Day's first NYC benefit in 1998, the movement has expanded to 76 countries with V-Day events worldwide from Angola to China to Ethiopia to Israel to Yugoslavia to Zimbabwe. To date, over 5000 benefit productions of The Vagina Monologues have taken place, raising funds for local grassroots antiviolence groups and educating millions of people about the issue of violence against women and girls.

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Art and Activism Unite to End Violence Against Women in India: V-Day Travels to India. March 8-20**

**MISSION: TO CELEBRATE SOUTH ASIAN WOMEN'S ACTIVISM.**

**V-DAY SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE HIBAAQ OSMAN LEADS DELEGATION WHICH INCLUDES ACTRESS AND ACTIVISTS JANE FONDA AND MARISA TOMEI; V-DAY FOUNDER, AUTHOR, PLAYWRIGHT AND ARTISTIC DIRECTOR EVE ENSLER; AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR JERRI LYNN FIELDS**

February 19, 2004

Itinerary highlights:

Multi-national conference in New Delhi focusing on Violence Against Women; Gala V-Day Benefit Performances of "The Vagina Monologues" in India with Indian Actresses, Debut of new Ensler monologue, a Visit To Himachal Pradesh, Home Of The Dalai Lama; and A Performance Of Madeeha Gauhar's widely acclaimed "Barri" (The Acquittal)

February 19, 2004 - New York, NY: V-Day, the global movement to end violence against women and girls, will travel to India March 8-20 to celebrate the achievements of women from India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, Afghanistan and Sri Lanka in their tireless work against violence. Mission members will listen to these women from diverse economic and cultural backgrounds as they discuss their shared urgent need for security, equality, justice and peace. Like previous V-Day listening trips to Afghanistan, Jordan, Egypt, Israel, Palestine, Kenya, Rome, the Philippines, and Kosovo among many other countries, the meetings will include women politicians, grassroots leaders, artists, doctors, and intellectuals amidst a variety of locations and activities.

V-Day's trip to India is part of a massive series of events taking place around the world in recognition of V-Day 2004, the purpose of which is to fund, support and raise awareness about violence against women. The V-Day India trip events will take place in Mumbai, Madras, Sidhbari, and New Delhi. Led by V-Day Special Representative Hibaaq Osman, and comprised of several prominent U.S. women artists, activists, and philanthropists - including V-Counsel member and Academy-award winning actress/activist Jane Fonda, V-Day activist and Academy-award winning actress Marisa Tomei, V-Day Founder/Artistic Director Eve Ensler and V-Day Executive Director Jerri Lynn Fields -- the V-Day delegation will attend multiple gatherings, formal and informal, where members will learn

about the triumphs and travails of ordinary women, explore and support their work, and discuss strategies to promote women's status and security. (Jane Fonda and Marisa Tomei will join the delegation in Mumbai. ) Actors and activists, poets and politicians will come together to support and celebrate the vigilance and vision of these women. Not only will V-Day help raise money through gala performances and auctions, but delegation members will also help lay a foundation stone for the Jagori women's learning and retreat centre in Sidhbari, and stay with families in their homes. Most important, the delegation will honor the Vagina warriors of South Asia, both silent and vocal, who have shown grace, dignity and power in the face of formidable danger and difficulty.

V-Day will be hosted by Jagori and SANGAT, two active, highly successful organizations working in India and South Asia.

JAGORI is a women's documentation, training and communication center established in 1984. JAGORI has been part of advocacy and action on issues ranging from violence against women, personal laws, child sexual abuse, single women's identity, Dalit women's issues, reproductive rights, HIV/AIDS, mental and emotional health of women and alternative healing therapies. It has established networks with more than 300 groups in the northern region of India and works on issues of women's empowerment and women's rights.

SANGAT was created in April 1998 and is a South Asian network of gender activists and trainers whose purpose is, among other objectives, to promote peace, security and solidarity for marginalized groups, especially women.

For more information or interviews, please contact: Susan Swan, V-Day Media & Communications Advisor by email [press@vday.org](mailto:press@vday.org) or by phone (212) 253-1823, by mobile (917) 865-6603.

Some featured events are as follows: March 8-11 - Mumbai

March 8: International Women's Day Celebration of "The Vagina Monologues" featuring Jane Fonda, Marisa Tomei, Eve Ensler, Mahabanoo Mody-Kotwal.

March 9: GALA BENEFIT AT TAJ MAHAL HOTEL BALLROOM and CRYSTAL ROOM A dinner and auction. Performances include "The Vagina Monologues" with Eve Ensler, and Indian cast members Dolly Thakore, Avantika Akerkar, Sonali Mahimtura, and Mahabanoo Mody-Kotwal. Songs by Usha Uthup, a Poetry Reading by Imtiaz Dharker and a new monologue debut by Eve Ensler.

March 11: CULTURAL EXCHANGE BETWEEN INDIA and PAKISTAN Asian Premier of a Play Reading of Eve Ensler's "Necessary Targets" with visiting Pakistani actresses, Eve Ensler, Mahabanoo Mody-Kotwal and Avantika Akerkar

March 12, 13 - MADRAS Benefit performances

March 15, 16 SIDHBARI, DHARAMSHALA (HIMACHAL PRADESH) hosted by JAGORI/SANGAT/V-DAY Delegates will stay with local families and visit community-based programs for women's well-being and empowerment.

March 16, 17, 18, 19, 20 - NEW DELHI

March 17, 18, 19 - Daytime Conference: Jagori/SANGAT/VDAY South Asian Conference on "Confronting Violence: Recounting Resistance, Envisioning Justice" 3-day conference and symposium. Day-long artistic event. Conference objective: To analyze how feminists have faced Violence Against Women, what connections have been made with other phenomena like communalism, fundamentalisms, globalization, privatization etc. Groups will critically review VAW campaigns in the last three decades and develop collective strategies for the future. The conference will also be part of a week of celebrations for Jagori's 20 years. Venue: Jamia Hamdard, New Delhi

March 16, 17, 18 - Evening. "The Vagina Monologues," Poor Box Productions directed by Mahabanoo Kotwal Venue: India Habitat Centre

March 17 - Evening "Barri" (The Acquittal), Ajoka Productions directed by Madeeha Gauhar Venue: Chinmaya Mission

March 18 - Evening A special presentation of "The Vagina Monologues"- by Eve Ensler Venue: Chinmaya Mission

March 19 - Evening International Panel on Violence Against Women and Women Against Violence with speakers from Afghanistan, Pakistan, USA, Holland and India. Venue: To be decided

March 20 - Evening Women Artists for Justice, Harmony and Peace

Organizers: JAGORI, SANGAT, ANHAD, V-DAY TIME: 6 p.m. onwards for four hours and more Venue: Open Air Theater, Pragati Maidan, New Delhi Objective: Along with others, women artists have always spoken out against all forms of violence and injustice. This evening is being organised to bring together, acknowledge and celebrate the contributions of some such artists from different parts of the world.

The socially committed artists who will join other global voices against Violence Against Women and against war are-

Shubha Mudgal, India

Mallika Sarabhai, India

Zehra Nigah, Pakistan

Eve Ensler, USA

Maya Rao, India

Salima Hashmi, Samina Ahmad and Samina Hussain, Pakistan

Eve Warberg, Sweden

Nasrene Pokkho, Iran

Ananya Chatterjea, India/USA

Artists Unlimited, India

Manu Kohli, India

Aditi Mangaldas, India

Jagori Group, India

Anushe, Bangladesh

Nandita Das, India



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**"UNTIL THE VIOLENCE STOPS," FIRST DOCUMENTARY ABOUT V-DAY TO BE RELEASED ON LIFETIME TELEVISION, FEBRUARY 2004**

**V-DAY, THE GLOBAL MOVEMENT TO END VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS WILL RELEASE ITS FIRST DOCUMENTARY ENTITLED "UNTIL THE VIOLENCE STOPS" IN FEBRUARY 2004 ON LIFETIME TELEVISION.**

New York, NY-- November 11, 2003—

In 2002, eight hundred cities participated in a movement to end violence against women and girls called V-Day, which grew out of Eve Ensler's play, "The Vagina Monologues." "Until the Violence Stops" is a one hour commercial-free documentary that follows the grassroots impact of V-Day in five international communities while exposing the pervasive and cultural forms of violence that women experience all over the world. Directed by Abby Epstein, the story begins at a star-studded V-Day benefit at Harlem's Apollo Theater and travels to regional events in Ukiah California, the Philippines and Pine Ridge Indian Reservation, culminating in the opening of the first V-Day Safe House for girls in Kenya. What emerges is an alternately devastating and hopeful look at the global and grassroots efforts in motion to stop violence against women and girls.

Featuring appearances by Tantoo Cardinal, Rosario Dawson, Eve Ensler, Jane Fonda, LisaGay Hamilton, Salma Hayek, Amy Hill, Rosie Perez, Isabella Rossellini.

"Until the Violence Stops" will premiere on Lifetime as part of the Network's ongoing, Emmy Award-winning campaign "Our Lifetime Commitment: Stop Violence Against Women," which includes extensive on-air original programming, online content and community outreach to change lives and laws for the better.

Expect more details about the documentary and V-Day's 2004 campaign "Celebrating Vagina Warriors," as well as Lifetime's "Our Lifetime Commitment: Stop Violence Against Women" initiative.

About V-Day: V-Day is a global movement to stop violence against women and girls. V-Day is a catalyst that promotes creative events to increase awareness, raise money, and revitalize the spirit of existing anti-violence organizations. V-Day generates broader attention for the fight to stop worldwide violence against women and girls including rape, battery, incest, female genital mutilation (FGM), and sexual slavery.

V-Day stages large-scale benefits and produces innovative gatherings, films, and programs (such as the upcoming 2004 documentary "Until The Violence Stops;" community briefings with Amnesty International on the missing and murdered women of Juarez, Mexico; The December 2003 V-Day delegation trip to Israel, Palestine, Egypt and Jordan; The Afghan Women's Summit; The Stop Rape Contest; and The Indian Country Project) to educate and change social attitudes towards violence against women.

Through V-Day campaigns, local volunteers and college students produce annual benefit performances of "The Vagina Monologues" to raise awareness and funds for anti-violence groups within their own communities. In 2003, over 1,000 V-Day benefit events were presented by volunteer activists around the world, educating millions of people about the reality of violence against women and girls and raising \$4 million.

The V-Day movement is growing at a rapid pace throughout the world. V-Day, a non-profit corporation, distributes funds to grassroots, national, and international organizations and programs that work to stop violence against women and girls. In its first year of incorporation (2001), V-Day was named one of Worth Magazine's "100 Best Charities." In its first six years, the V-Day movement has raised over \$20 million.

The 'V' in V-Day stands for Victory, Valentine and Vagina.

LIFETIME is the leader in women's television and one of the top-rated basic cable television networks. A diverse, multi-media company, LIFETIME is committed to offering the highest quality entertainment and information programming, and advocating a wide range of issues affecting women and their families. In September 2003 Lifetime was awarded the prestigious Governors Award from The Academy of Television Arts and Sciences (ATAS) for its advocacy on its "Stop Violence Against Women" initiative. LIFETIME Television, Lifetime Movie Network, Lifetime Real Women and Lifetime Online, are part of LIFETIME Entertainment Services, a 50/50 joint venture of The Hearst Corporation and The Walt Disney Company, as is Lifetime magazine, which debuted in April 2003.



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**REPORT FROM V-DAY-SPONSORED AFGHAN WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP PROGRAM RELEASED**

**OVER 75 AFGHAN WOMEN WORKED TOGETHER TO DEVELOP REALISTIC WORKING STRATEGIES TOWARD NON-VIOLENT SOCIETY, WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP AND INCREASED POLITICAL POWER**

New York, NY—May 1, 2003—

As part of its ongoing efforts to support Afghan women, V-Day returned to Afghanistan March 8-11, 2003 to offer an Afghan Women's Leadership Program to women from different grassroots and community based organizations within Afghanistan.

V-Day Special Representative Hibaaq Osman convened the program, in consultation with political advocacy training expert Eleanor LeCain, Afifa Azim, head of the Afghan Women's Network, and V-Day staffer Barbara Wien.

Over 75 Afghan women attended the three-day session in Kabul which focused on building skills in political advocacy and identifying the key challenges for women through listening, supporting and finding ways to amplify the work that the women are already doing on the ground. The training program built on the work that had been started at the Afghan Women's Summit for Democracy (Brussels 2001) and the V-Day Kabul Talks (March 2002).

Osman along with V-Day Founder/Artistic Director Eve Ensler, and Executive Director Jerri Lynn Fields welcomed the group with greetings from women around the world. "You survived and have stamina," stated Osman, "You have everything you need to be leaders. We will not teach you, but work with what you already have. We learn from you, too. This seminar will strengthen our work together for peace and democracy."

Ensler began the conference by asking the women to imagine V-World, a world where they lived free of violence against women and girls. The ensuing discussion was beautiful, moving and hopeful, setting the stage for the program during which the conference attendees spent two days strategizing how Afghanistan could become a country free of violence against women. A key outcome of the conference was the development of working strategies to:

- \* Provide education for girls and women
- \* Improve women's economic situation
- \* Change the negative aspects of culture and tradition
- \* Increase awareness of women's rights in the Constitution and Sharia law
- \* Increase the political power of women

While in Afghanistan, V-Day made an overall commitment of \$120,000 in awards - \$60,000 as a direct result of the three day leadership program in Kabul - to groups that will assure women's participation in the construction of the new constitution in Afghanistan, coordinate working women in Afghanistan, involve lawyers in the community, teach music to young girls and provide shelter for orphans and hospital services for refugees.

[Click here](#) for a copy of the complete report.



V-Day's Afghan Women's Leadership program was sponsored by V-Day with support from Mama Cash and the Global Fund For Women.

About V-Day: Inspired by Playwright Eve Ensler's play "The Vagina Monologues," V-Day is a global movement to stop violence against women and girls that promotes creative events to increase awareness, raise money, and revitalize the spirit of existing anti-violence organizations. V-Day stages large-scale benefits and promotes innovative gatherings and programs (The Afghan Women's Summit, The Stop Rape Contest, Indian Country Project, and more) to change social attitudes towards violence against women. In 2003, more than 1000 V-Day benefit events - produced by local volunteer activists - took place around the world, educating millions of people about the reality of violence against women and girls and raising funds for local groups within their communities. In its first year of incorporation (2001), V-Day was named one of Worth Magazine's "100 Best Charities." In its first five years, the V-Day movement has raised over \$14 million, with over \$7 million raised in 2002 alone. The 'V' in V-Day stands for Victory, Valentine and Vagina.



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**TWO STAR-STUDED BENEFITS ON TWO COASTS WITH ONE MISSION:  
TO STOP VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS:**

**V-DAY NYC 2003 ON THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 13 WITH CLAIRE DANES & MARISA TOMEI & V-DAY LA 2003 ON MONDAY, FEBRUARY 24 WITH ROSARIO DAWSON & SHIVA ROSE**

*V-Day NYC and V-Day LA to feature private benefit screening of select scenes from the upcoming documentary about V-Day, "Until The Violence Stops," plus new monologues written by Eve Ensler*

New York, NY – February 7, 2003 –V-Day, the global movement to end violence against women and girls, announced today its two showcase benefits of the season. On February 13 in NYC and February 24 in LA, actresses including Claire Danes, Marisa Tomei, Rosario Dawson, and Shiva Rose will join "The Vagina Monologues" playwright and V-Day Founder Eve Ensler, as V-Day expands from theatrical performances into film at its two major fundraisers this year - V-Day NYC and V-Day LA 2003. For the first time, these V-Day events will feature a private benefit screening of selected scenes from an upcoming documentary about V-Day, entitled "Until The Violence Stops." Both events will include performances of select **new** monologues, written by Ensler, performed by Danes and Tomei in NYC and by Dawson and Rose in Los Angeles. V-DAY LA 2003 is presented by The Los Angeles Commission on Assaults Against Women (LACAAW) and V-Day.

"Until The Violence Stops" represents a new avenue for V-Day to raise awareness and funds. (V-Day's journey into film has auspicious beginnings as the documentary about Ensler's writing group at Bedford Hills Correctional Facility for Women, "What I Want My Words To Do To You," received the "Freedom Of Expression" award at this year's Sundance Film Festival). This work in progress documentary feature will ultimately take the viewer to nine countries capturing authentic vagina monologues via interviews with local survivors of sexual trafficking, battery, rape, incest and female genital mutilation and, along the way, revealing how each culture is fighting to protect their women and children and how the V-Day movement is building safe houses and schools, raising new funds for existing programs and saving lives worldwide. (Details on its theatrical/broadcast release are forthcoming.)

The V-Day NYC and V-Day LA benefit events are part of the global movement to end violence against women and girls' 2003 benefit season, which features over 1000 V-Day benefit productions of "The Vagina Monologues" around the world. Locations range far and wide, including V-Day San Diego (U.S.); V-Day Peshawar (Pakistan), V-Day Brigham Young University (U.S.), and V-Day Sarajevo (Bosnia and Herzegovina), all raising funds and awareness for local anti-violence groups. Now in its fifth year, V-Day has raised \$14 million in funding for thousands of grassroots groups around the world.

On February 13, **V-DAY NYC 2003** features Eve Ensler, Claire Danes, and Marisa Tomei, with special guests Rosie Perez, Isabella Rossellini, Elisabeth Rohm, and more. Seating for the screening will begin at 6:15 P.M. at The Hammerstein Ballroom, 311 West 34<sup>th</sup> Street Between 8<sup>th</sup> And 9<sup>th</sup> Avenues, NYC. Screening and performances start at 7 PM and will be followed by dinner and dancing. Tickets begin at \$500, and can be purchased via phone at (212) 921-9070, online at [www.vday.org/events](http://www.vday.org/events), and via email at [vday@jfm2productions.com](mailto:vday@jfm2productions.com).

**\*\*TO REQUEST MEDIA CREDENTIALS FOR THIS EVENT,  
PLEASE CALL SUSAN SWAN/WENDY SHANKER (212) 445-3288, [press@vday.org](mailto:press@vday.org)\*\***

On February 24, **V-DAY LA 2003**, presented by The Los Angeles Commission on Assaults Against Women (LACAAW) and V-Day, features Eve Ensler, Rosario Dawson, Shiva Rose and event chairs Calista Flockhart, Sherry Lansing, & Rose. LACAAW is a private, non profit 31-year old sexual assault, domestic violence, child abuse prevention center. The screening is at 7:00 PM at The Director's Guild Theatre, 7920 Sunset Boulevard. Tickets are \$250, VIP tickets are \$500 (includes VIP Pre-Party). Sponsorships available. Purchases can be made via phone at 310-491-1401, online at [www.vday.org/events](http://www.vday.org/events), and via email at [info@blueroomevents.com](mailto:info@blueroomevents.com).

**About V-Day:** Inspired by Playwright Eve Ensler's play "The Vagina Monologues," V-Day is a global movement to stop violence against women and girls that promotes creative events to increase awareness, raise money, and revitalize the spirit of existing anti-violence organizations. V-Day stages large-scale benefits and promotes innovative gatherings and programs (The Afghan Women's Summit, The Stop Rape Contest, Indian Country Project, and more) to change social attitudes towards violence against women. In 2003, more than 1000 V-Day benefit events - produced by local volunteer activists - are scheduled around the world, educating millions of people about the reality of violence against women and girls and raising funds for local groups within their communities.

In its first year of incorporation (2001), V-Day was named one of Worth Magazine's "100 Best Charities." In its first five years, the V-Day movement has raised over \$14 million, with over \$7 million raised in 2002 alone. The 'V' in V-Day stands for Victory, Valentine and Vagina. <http://www.vday.org>

**About LACAAW:** The Los Angeles Commission on Assaults Against Women (LACAAW) is a private, non profit 31 year old sexual assault, domestic violence , child abuse prevention center. One of the first organizations of its kind in the country, LACAAW serves over 50,000 people annually and its programs have had national impact. The organization's mission is the elimination of sexual & domestic violence. <http://www.lacaaw.org>



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**CONTACT:** Susan Celia Swan, V-Day (NYC), 917-865-6603, [press@vday.org](mailto:press@vday.org)

**V-DAY ENTERS ITS FIFTH YEAR WITH A VISION:  
V-DAY 2003: FROM V-DAY TO V-WORLD  
V-DAY ASKS WOMEN AND MEN WORLDWIDE TO ENVISION AND CREATE A WORLD WITHOUT  
VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS**

*Anti-Violence Movement Continues To Expand With Over 1000 V-Day Benefits including V-Day Islamabad and V-Day Peshawar (Pakistan), V-Day Brigham Young University (U.S.), V-Day Hong Kong (China), V-Day Sarajevo (Bosnia and Herzegovina), V-Day Bombay (India), and many more...*

New York, NY - January 29, 2003-- V-Day announced today its vision and plans for 2003. The vision statement, drafted by V-Day Founder/Artistic Director Eve Ensler and entitled "From V-Day to V-World," calls upon women and men worldwide to envision a world without violence against women and girls and to join V-Day in working to create it. This message runs throughout all elements of this year's campaign, including over one thousand V-Day benefit events around the world; the first ever PSA campaign in print and on TV; a spotlight on Native American and Canadian First Nations women; an initiative to end gender-based violence in Africa, Asia and the Middle East; and corporate sponsorship.

2003 marks V-Day's fifth birthday. Since the first V-Day benefit performance of Ensler's award-winning play "The Vagina Monologues" took place in NYC on February 14, 1998, V-Day has grown into a worldwide social and activist movement, raising funds for thousands of local groups and opening safe houses in Africa and schools in Afghanistan and Pakistan. In five short years, the movement has raised over \$14 million dollars for these local and international groups working to end violence against women and girls in their communities.

In 2003, over one thousand V-Day benefit events will take place worldwide, raising funds and awareness to end violence - an issue that affects one in three women around the world (UNFPA, 2000). As part of the V-Day Worldwide and College campaigns, V-Day benefits feature a performance of "The Vagina Monologues" and are scheduled between January 31 and March 9, 2003. For the first time, these V-Day benefits will include two new community-written monologues, one by women and one by men, envisioning a world without violence, V-World. On February 3, a special V-Day event will take place on the Taos Pueblo in Taos, NM honoring this year's V-Day Spotlight on Native American and Canadian First Nations Women.

In 2002, over 800 V-Day benefits were held in over 35 countries. This year the V-Day movement welcomes the addition of hundreds of cities and colleges participating for the first time, including: V-Day Peshawar and V-Day Islamabad in Pakistan, V-Day Sarajevo in Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as V-Day Trinidad and Tobago and V-Day Brigham Young University in Salt Lake City, UT. To locate the event(s) nearest you or by country, visit <http://www.vday.org/events>.

V-Day's Ensler, along with Executive Director Jerri Lynn Fields, will travel to over 21 V-Day locations to meet organizers, activists, beneficiaries, and journalists. To date, their itinerary includes: V-Day Peshawar and V-Day Islamabad, Pakistan; V-Day Kabul, Afghanistan; V-Day Bombay, India; V-Day Paris, France; V-Day Zagreb, Croatia; V-Day Vukovar and V-Day Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina; V-Day Taos and Santa Fe, NM; V-Day NYC, V-Day Mexico City, Mexico; V-Day Juarez, Mexico; V-Day Sydney, Australia; V-Day Kauai, Hawaii; V-

Day Los Angeles, CA; and V-Day Florence, Italy. At a stop in Melbourne, Australia, Ensler will perform "The Vagina Monologues" with local performers and politicians - a special event benefiting V-Day and Australia's Emily's List at the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions Women's Congress.

#### New avenues for the V-Day message

With its 2003 V-World inspired campaign, V-Day will raise awareness via new avenues in the media and new alliances in the fashion and beauty industries. Beginning in January, a unique PSA (Public Service Advertising) campaign will unfold in print magazines and, in February, in a companion series of TV spots. Today, January 29, a new, multi-featured website ([www.vday.org](http://www.vday.org)) launches online.

- \* February 18 at 7:00PM ET/PT, Lifetime Television will air an "Intimate Portrait" on Founder Ensler.
- \* The March issue of Marie Claire will feature an exclusive essay by Ensler, set against a series of commissioned photographs by an award-winning group of Magnum photojournalists.
- \* Paula Dorf's "V-Day" lipstick and Julie Haus' "Fashion For Peace: V-Day" clutch both hit stores nationally in January.
- \* January 21-February 4, BARNEYS NEW YORK's flagship NYC store will dedicate its window display to V-Day, courtesy of Creative Director Simon Doonan.
- \* January 21 - February 14, Eileen Fisher's 24 U.S. stores will feature V-Day/V-World themed windows.

#### Expanding programs at home

V-Day strives to bring attention to grassroots and often invisible groups of women. For 2003 V-Day expands its "Afghanistan Is Everywhere" campaign to "Afghanistan Is Everywhere: Spotlight on Native American and First Nations women." This campaign-wide Spotlight will place the issue in front of thousands. As part of the Spotlight, each local V-Day organizer is encouraged to donate up to 10% of their proceeds towards Native American and First Nations women.

#### A new international initiative to end violence – Africa, Asia and the Middle East

The V-Day team, led by Hibaaq Osman, Special Representative to Africa, Asia and the Middle East, is currently working in partnership with diverse women's networks in Egypt, Jordan, Palestine, Israel, Pakistan, India, Kenya and Afghanistan. The goal is to strengthen and support their common agenda of ending violence against women and girls, and bring an end to bride burnings, female genital mutilation (FGM), honor killings, sexual assault, rape and many other forms of gender-based violence. The team collaborates only with those organizations that have a commitment to working across ethnic, religious, and class lines.

For International Women's Day (March 8), V-Day is planning a return fact-finding visit to Afghanistan and Pakistan. The delegation will include Ensler, Fields, Osman, and members of international women's groups, funders, and celebrities who will continue dialogue, advance education, and build a plan for action.

#### Corporate support

V-Day applauds the generosity and commitment of its corporate sponsors. V-Day 2003 sponsors are: Dramatists Play Service, Inc., Eileen Fisher, Eziba, Fairmont Hotels & Resorts, Hearst Magazines, Julie Haus Handbags, Lifetime Television, Liz Claiborne, Luna Bar, Marie Claire, Organon (Makers of NuvaRing), Paula Dorf, Peacekeeper, Tampax, Time Inc., and Vosges Haut Chocolat.

As V-Day 2003 unfolds, updated information, images and reports from the events and campaigns will be available at <http://www.vday.org> on an ongoing basis.

#### About V-Day

V-Day is a global movement to stop violence against women and girls. V-Day is a palpable energy, a fierce catalyst that promotes creative events to increase awareness, raise money, and revitalize the spirit of existing anti-violence organizations. V-Day generates broader attention for the fight to stop worldwide violence against women and girls including rape, battery, incest, female genital mutilation (FGM), and sexual slavery. V-Day provides funding to create and nurture innovative programs to stop the violence.

Through V-Day campaigns, local volunteers and college students produce annual benefit performances of "The Vagina Monologues" to raise awareness and funds for anti-violence groups within their own communities.

V-Day itself stages large-scale benefits and promotes innovative gatherings and programs (The Afghan Women's Summit, The Stop Rape Contest, Indian Country Project, and more) to change social attitudes towards violence against women. In 2002, more than 800 V-Day benefit events were presented by local volunteer activists around the world, educating millions of people about the reality of violence against women and girls.

The V-Day movement is growing at a rapid pace throughout the world. V-Day, a non-profit corporation, distributes funds to grassroots, national, and international organizations and programs that work to stop violence against women and girls. In its first year of incorporation (2001), V-Day was named one of Worth Magazine's "100 Best Charities." In its first five years, the V-Day movement has raised over \$14 million, with over \$7 million raised in 2002 alone.

The 'V' in V-Day stands for Victory, Valentine and Vagina.

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#### V-Day 2003 Events:

The V-Day Worldwide Campaign: V-Day benefit productions of "The Vagina Monologues" are confirmed to date in over 370 cities nationally and abroad to raise awareness and money for local groups in their communities that work to stop violence against women and girls. 40 countries are participating this year including Ghana, Botswana, Spain, Netherlands, Pakistan, Jamaica and Trinidad and

Tobago. For the first time, V-Day Nairobi will take place, presenting the premiere performance of "The Vagina Monologues" in Kenya. Organizers present the theatrical production from start to finish including casting, location scouting, ticket sales, publicity, and more. For the up to date listing of cities, <http://www.vday.org/world>.

The V-Day College Campaign: Much like the Worldwide Campaign, the College Campaign will bring V-Day benefit productions of "The Vagina Monologues" to more than 660 colleges and universities around the world in an effort to raise awareness and money for local anti-violence groups and empower the leaders and activists of the future. The number of international college V-Day's has increased dramatically this year in both the number of participating schools outside of the US and also in the variety of places that are represented. Of the 662 schools, 105 (about one sixth) are outside of the US and 61 (about one tenth) are outside of North America in places including England, Mexico, the Philippines, Malaysia, Ireland, Israel, Jamaica, Australia, Kenya, China, Germany, the Czech Republic and Spain. For the listing of participating schools to date, go to <http://www.vday.org/college>.

#### Spotlights and Programs:

Afghanistan Is Everywhere: Spotlight on Native American and Canadian First Nations Women, The Indian Country Project:

V-Day's decision to focus on Indian Country this year emerged from a realization of a problem that is statistically and anecdotally well-documented. According to the US Bureau of Justice Statistics, the average annual rate of rape and sexual assault among American Indian women is 3.5 times higher than all other races. This rate continues to rise while Indian women and girls remain invisible as an at-risk population. Indian women often feel unable to address the violence because of complicated jurisdictional problems and lack of resources. Consequently, the high rate of abuse continues, unabated. Native American activist Suzanne Blue Star Boy has joined V-Day to lead the Indian Country Project, a campaign to end violence against women on all American Indian and Canadian First Nations Peoples lands. Her work will help generate awareness and fundraising in and for Native communities across the US and Canada. In its first year, 23 V-Day's representing over 50 tribes are taking place as part of the Indian Country Project on reservations and reserves in South Dakota, Arizona, New Mexico, British Columbia, Toronto, Minnesota, Ontario, and Alaska. Tribes such as the Lakota, Algonquin, Cree, Squamish, Lil'wat Nation, Tlingit, Haida, Yup'ik, Inuit, 8 Northern Pueblos, Ojibwe, Chippewa, Mdewakanton, Chumash, Quenchan, Dakota, Athabaskin, Stl'atl'imx, Tsimpian, and Lower Sioux are just a few of the tribes participating in and benefiting from this year's V-Day events. These V-Day events will gather Native Women to collectively envision and claim a future without violence against women and girls in their communities.

Africa, Asia And the Middle East: As part of the 2003 V-World vision, V-Day has launched a new initiative to end violence against women and girls in Africa, Asia, and the Middle East. Key coalition-building efforts have already

begun via recent listening visits in Afghanistan, Brussels, South Africa, Kenya, Egypt, Jordan, Israel and Palestine. In each country, meetings were held with a diverse group of politicians, grassroots leaders, artists, doctors, intellectuals and teenagers amidst a variety of locations and activities. The team will convene a diverse, strategic core group of women and women's organizations within each country in the regions.

Poetry Contest: A V-World poetry contest inviting women and men worldwide to create poetry inspired by the question, "What will the world look like when the violence ends?" was held. Submissions were accepted as of January 2003 and the winning entries will be announced on or around Valentine's Day (Exact date TBA).

Awareness:

V-Day 2003: From V-Day to V-World: The vision statement can be read at <http://www.vday.org/vworld>.

PSA (Public Service Advertising) Campaign This is a year-long, multi-media campaign. The series of print PSA's were shot pro bono by renowned photographer Joyce Tenneson and feature celebrities including Salma Hayek, Rosario Dawson, Jane Fonda, Eve, Denyce Graves, Isabella Rossellini, Shiva Rose as well as V-Day activists from diverse countries including Kenya, Mexico, Afghanistan. PSA's are scheduled to run in Hearst magazines - including Marie Claire, O, Redbook, Bazaar and Good Housekeeping - as well as in various Time, Inc. magazines; ELLE Quebec; Velvet Park; URB; and many others. A companion TV campaign featuring celebrities including Julia Stiles, Julianna Margulies, Calista Flockhart, and everyday women speaking to the camera about what their world would look like if there was no violence, will launch in mid-February on Lifetime Television and will expand to other cable and broadcast networks throughout the year. To view the complete series of print PSA's, go to <http://www.vday.org/psa>.

Lifetime "Intimate Portrait: Eve Ensler": On Tuesday, February 18, 7PM (ET/PT), Lifetime profiles the life of V-Day Founder/Artistic Director Eve Ensler. The profile includes interviews with celebrity V-Day supporters, including Calista Flockhart, Jane Fonda, Glenn Close, Lisa Gay Hamilton, Rosie Perez, Dylan McDermott, Kathy Najimy and Julia Stiles. The "Intimate Portrait: Eve Ensler" and the V-Day PSA's are scheduled to air as part of Lifetime's Stop Violence Against Women Campaign.

[www.vday.org](http://www.vday.org): In late January, V-Day will be launching a new web site, to better highlight the full range of V-Day activities taking place around the world. The site will feature increased photographs and V-artwork, and more interactive features for visitors.

Marie Claire: For their annual coverage of V-Day, Marie Claire delivers a startlingly realistic look at violence against women around the world via a photo essay, created in collaboration with Magnum photos and featuring the work of Magnum photojournalists Thomas Dworzak, Maya Goded, Susan Meiselas, and Patrick Zachmann, accompanied by an exclusive essay by Ensler about her relationship with violence, and "woman on the street" comments about what V-World will look like.

Barneys New York: Red boa alert! From Tuesday, January 21 through Tuesday, February 4, the store windows will be dedicated to V-Day, as created by Barneys Creative Director Simon Doonan.

Eileen Fisher: As a valentine's call to action, in the window of every Eileen Fisher retail store, a field of hearts, like flowers, poke up from their stems. It makes you stop on the sidewalk and peer in. Each heart has a word on it, ending the sentence: "When violence against women and girls ends, I will...praise, boogie, sizzle, parade, belong...love."

Julie Haus "Fashion For Peace: V-Day" Clutch: Houston-based new handbag designer Julie Haus has designed an exclusive clutch-style handbag, the "V-Day Fashion For Peace" clutch to raise funds for V-Day. Inspired by V-Day's 2003 Vision, Haus developed the "Fashion for Peace Campaign" as a line of handbags designed to raise awareness for the organizations that fight to end violence around the world.

Paula Dorf "V-Day" Lipstick: Paula Dorf helps support V-Day with the creation of "V-Day" Lipstick, a beautiful watermelon pink shade that looks great on everyone. A portion of the proceeds will go to V-Day.

Vosges Haut Chocolat: Vosges Haut Chocolat is donating to V-Day 25% of the proceeds from the sale of their Sophie's Boite Chapeau, an elegant hatbox filled with exotic truffles, couture cocoas and haut-chocolat.

PeaceKeeper: PeaceKeeper, a line of products for which All Profits, after taxes, are used to support women's health advocacy and human rights issues, while educating the consumer, is creating a lip gloss for V-Day, which will be soon available in retail stores and online.



# V DAY

UNTIL THE VIOLENCE STOPS

CONTACT: Susan Celia Swan/Alex Petti, V-DAY, (917) 865-6603, [press@vday.org](mailto:press@vday.org)  
Karen Duffy/BARNEYS NEW YORK, (212) 450-8696, [kduffy@barneys.com](mailto:kduffy@barneys.com)

**\*\* MEDIA ALERT \***

**CLOSING NIGHT PARTY ON SUNDAY, JANUARY 26**  
**FOR "THE VAGINA MONOLOGUES" OFF-BROADWAY**  
**IS OPENING NIGHT FOR V-DAY 2003 AT BARNEYS NEW YORK**

**COME, CELEBRATE, B.Y.O.V.!**

**JOIN EVE ENSLER, JULIA STILES, DYLAN MCDERMOTT, ISABELLA ROSSELLINI,  
CLAIRE DANES, ROSIE PEREZ, HARRY BELAFONTE, GLORIA STEINEM, TAMARA TUNIE, FREE,  
KATHLEEN CHALFANT, BETTY, PRODUCER DAVID STONE, HOWARD SOCOL, EILEEN FISHER  
& OTHER CELEBRITY GUESTS**

**BEGINNING, TUESDAY, JANUARY 21, BARNEYS WINDOWS CELEBRATE V-DAY**

**WHO:** Playwright "The Vagina Monologues" and V-Day Founder/Artistic Director Eve Ensler, Julia Stiles, Dylan McDermott, Isabella Rossellini, Claire Danes, Rosie Perez, Harry Belafonte, Gloria Steinem, Amy Irving, Gloria Reuben, Kathleen Chalfant, Hazelle Goodman, Free, Tamara Tunie, Producer David Stone, Howard Socol, Eileen Fisher, Joie Lee, Amy Love, Anjali Bhimani, Barbara Barrie, Bhaswanti Bhattacharya, Didi Conn, Susie Estes, Hayley Mills, Geneva Carr, Loretta Swit, Mary Testa, Mikveh, Miriam Plotkin, Phyllis Newman, Sarah Jones, Sharon Gless, Swoosie Kurtz, Lois Smith, Tovah Feldshuh, Tracey Leigh, Veanne Cox, Wendy Braun, and Other Celebrity Guests...

**WHAT:** Closing night party for "The Vagina Monologues," is a celebration of the play and the women and men who made the play a worldwide success and a movement to end violence against women & girls, and the launch for V-Day 2003. As the amazing Off-Broadway production closes after a 3 1/2 year run, the **INVITE-ONLY** closing party will launch V-Day 2003 and the more than 1000 V-Day 2003 benefit performances of the play scheduled to take place worldwide between February – March and raising funds and awareness for local groups that work to stop violence against women and girls.

Light food, drinks by Campari, and dancing. Hosted by Howard Socol, CEO BARNEYS NEW YORK, and Eileen Fisher, President EILEEN FISHER.

**WINDOWS:** To kick off the celebration, from January 21st through February 4th, windows by BARNEYS NEW YORK Creative Director Simon Doonan will celebrate the play and V-Day. "The windows consist of giant V's (for V-Day) -in lieu of giant vaginas in the windows, we opted for giant V's -7 feet high and covered in marauding empowered women -tiny plastic dolls-taking over the world and having a ball. The names of the zillions of women who have performed in "The Vagina Monologues" and V-Day benefits are listed on the back wall of the window, from Karen Black to Winona and back again." - Simon Doonan

**WHEN:** Sunday, January 26, 8:30PM

**WHERE:** BARNEYS NEW YORK, Madison and 61Street

**TO REQUEST MEDIA CREDENTIALS TO COVER THIS EVENT, CONTACT SUSAN SWAN (212) 445-3288/(917) 538-8366 or EMAIL [press@vday.org](mailto:press@vday.org)**

**V-DAY'S UPCOMING NYC BENEFIT IS V-Day NYC 2003:** featuring documentary clips and new monologues,

dinner and dancing - Thursday, February 13 at the Hammerstein Ballroom. Tickets, from \$500, can be purchased via phone (212) 921-9070, online at [www.vday.org/events](http://www.vday.org/events) <<http://www.vday.org/events>> , and via email: [vday@jfm2productions.com](mailto:vday@jfm2productions.com)

V-DAY LA 2003 takes place Monday, February 24 at the Director's Guild Theater in LA.

**About V-Day:** Inspired by Playwright Eve Ensler's play "The Vagina Monologues," V-Day is a global movement to stop violence against women and girls that promotes creative events to increase awareness, raise money, and revitalize the spirit of existing anti-violence organizations. V-Day stages large-scale benefits and promotes innovative gatherings and programs (The Afghan Women's Summit, The Stop Rape Contest, Indian Country Project, and more) to change social attitudes towards violence against women. In 2003, more than 1000 V-Day benefit events - produced by local volunteer activists - are scheduled around the world, educating millions of people about the reality of violence against women and girls and raising funds for local groups within their communities.

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**Contact:** Susan Celia Swan 917-865-6603, [press@vday.org](mailto:press@vday.org)

**V-DAY APPOINTS HIBAAQ OSMAN V-DAY SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE  
TO AFRICA, ASIA, AND THE MIDDLE EAST**

*Based out of Washington, DC, Osman is currently working in partnership with diverse women's networks in Afghanistan, Egypt, India, Israel, Jordan, Kenya, Pakistan and Palestine*

January 24, 2003 – As part of its ongoing mission to end violence against women and girls, V-Day is thrilled to announce the appointment of Hibaaq Osman as V-Day Special Representative to Africa, Asia and the Middle East. As V-Day's Special Representative, Ms. Osman will spearhead efforts to build broad political and social movements for women's rights at national, regional, and international levels in those regions.

The Washington, DC-based Osman is already working in partnership with diverse women's networks in Afghanistan, Egypt, India, Israel, Jordan, Kenya, Pakistan and Palestine to strengthen and support their common agenda of ending violence against women and girls - specifically to end bride burnings, female genital mutilation (FGM), honor killings, sexual assault, rape and the many other forms of gender-based violence that plague these regions. The V-Day effort collaborates with organizations that have a commitment to working across ethnic, religious, and class lines.

Speaking about the appointment, V-Day Founder/Artistic Director Eve Ensler stated, "Hibaaq brings her experience in working with women in conflict areas like Somalia, Sudan, and Afghanistan, her unique flair for getting things done in coalition, and her passion for women to this newly created position as V-Day Special Representative to Africa, Asia, and The Middle East. I cannot think of a more talented or committed candidate: Hibaaq inspires and with her help I know that V-Day will make a real impact in the extremely challenging work of ending violence against women and girls in these politically complex and war-torn regions."

Born in Somalia and raised in Ethiopia and Sudan, **Hibaaq Osman** has been involved in women's rights issues in Africa for over 15 years. Building on her understanding of the existing cultural and political beliefs in various developing countries, she has collaborated with religious leaders, spiritual leaders, politicians, prominent individuals, scholars, women's rights activists, governmental organizations, research institutes, feminist institutions, and universities to bring women's rights issues to the forefront of the domestic and international agendas. Through her work, she has helped to establish women's rights organizations and form coalitions around women's issues, most recently SIHA (Strategic Initiatives for the Horn of Africa) to promote women's rights, peace and human development. Ms. Osman has done extensive research on conflict resolution, FGM (Female Genital Mutilation), and women's rights in Islam, and was previously a Senior Fellow of the Academy for Political Leadership and Participation at the University of Maryland.

***Groundwork for the V-Day Initiative has already begun in Egypt, Jordan, Israel, Palestine, Afghanistan and Africa:*** The groundwork for the V-Day Initiative has already begun. From Thursday, December 11 through Saturday, December 21, 2002, Osman convened a series of visits to Egypt, Jordan, Israel and Palestine to listen intensively to women as they discussed their urgent need for women's security, equality, justice and peace.

Like previous V-Day visits, a series of meetings were held with diverse groups of women politicians, grassroots leaders, artists, doctors, intellectuals and teenagers amidst a variety of locations and activities. The V-Day delegation, comprised of several prominent U.S. women artists, activists, and philanthropists - including V-Day

Founder/Playwright Eve Ensler, V-Counsel member/Activist/Actress Jane Fonda, and Osman – attended a series of meetings to listen, discuss, learn, explore and support the work, joint peace initiatives and other strategies of women, teenagers and young girls. Following the visits, V-Day is working to amplify the women's voices in the international community and media and to bring back specific actions or recommendations to policy makers to develop real security for women and girls.

In Spring 2002, Hibaaq traveled to Kenya with Eve to attend the opening of the first V-Day Safe House - a safe haven for young girls seeking refuge from FGM and early childhood marriage; to Sri Lanka to speak at the International Conference on "The Role of Women in Peace Building and Constitution Making"; and to Uganda to explore trends and future challenges of women's rights in Africa, identify key areas of concern and to formulate recommendations to better address these challenges and concerns.

In December 2001, V-Day participated in the "Afghan Women's Summit for Democracy" (in Brussels), as one of the main sponsors and donors. As a follow-up to the Brussels Summit, Ms. Osman traveled with V-Day Founder/Artistic Director Eve Ensler to Afghanistan in March 2002 to participate in International Women's Day in Kabul, celebrated there for the first time in five years. In Kabul, V-Day sponsored a series of roundtable talks on Afghanistan and Pakistan, gathering together more than 100 Afghan women, including the Brussels participants, to share status updates and feedback on their situation and to encourage strategic alliances among the women's groups.

While at the Brussels summit, the participants cited numerous times that lack of communication (there was and is no telephone infrastructure in Afghanistan) prevented them from effectively working together on a common agenda. To bridge this gap, V-Day provided and delivered at the Kabul talks over sixteen satellite telephones to women's groups, including the Afghan Women's Ministry, to build better communication and develop a network among the groups.

***'Friends of V-Day' networks to be created within each country:***

On the national level, the team will convene a diverse, strategic core group of women and women's organizations within each country to become the "Friends of V-Day." The aim of the groups will be to define violence in their cultural context, identify the specific types of violence in their communities, and prioritize one campaign and one strategy to stop violence against women and girls in their country using the funds raised from V-Day benefit events. Through this inclusive, broad-based, participatory approach, the expressed needs of local partners will lead and shape V-Day's work in their area. The "Friends of V-Day" will work together as a coalition, cross-fertilizing ideas and experiences and supporting key campaigns to have maximum impact.

Taking the work to a second level, "Friends of V-Day" networks will also forge strategic alliances across borders on a regional basis to stop honor killings, bride burnings, FGM and other life-threatening issues for women, and help end the isolation that may be felt in individual countries. An annual regional meeting is planned for the "Friends of V-Day" groups to compare experiences, evaluate campaigns and develop future strategies.

**About V-Day**

V-Day is a global movement to stop violence against women and girls. V-Day is a palpable energy, a fierce catalyst that promotes creative events to increase awareness, raise money, and revitalize the spirit of existing anti-violence organizations. V-Day generates broader attention for the fight to stop worldwide violence against women and girls including rape, battery, incest, female genital mutilation (FGM), and sexual slavery. V-Day provides funding to create and nurture innovative programs to stop the violence. Through V-Day campaigns, local volunteers and college students produce annual benefit performances of "The Vagina Monologues" to raise awareness and funds for anti-violence groups within their own communities. V-Day itself stages large-scale benefits and promotes innovative gatherings and programs (The Afghan Women's Summit, The Stop Rape Contest, Indian Country Project, and more) to change social attitudes towards violence against women. In 2002, more than 800 V-Day benefit events were presented by local volunteer activists around the world, educating millions of people about the reality of violence against women and girls. The V-Day movement is growing at a rapid pace throughout the world. V-Day, a non-profit corporation, distributes funds to grassroots, national, and international organizations and programs that work to stop violence against women and girls. In its first year of incorporation (2001), V-Day was named one of *Worth Magazine's* "100 Best Charities." In its first five years, the V-Day movement has raised over \$14 million, with over \$7 million raised in 2002 alone. The 'V' in V-Day stands for Victory, Valentine and Vagina.

# V DAY

UNTIL THE VIOLENCE STOPS

## MEDIA ALERT

Contact: Susan Celia Swan, (917) 865-6603 [press@vday.org](mailto:press@vday.org)

**UK POLITICIANS INSPIRED BY V-DAY, THE  
GLOBAL MOVEMENT TO END VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN & GIRLS,  
PERFORM "THE VAGINA MONOLOGUES" AT  
THE LABOUR PARTY CONFERENCE IN BLACKPOOL, ENGLAND:**

**FEBRUARY 2003 V-DAY EVENT IN THE WORKS, TO BE HELD IN FRONT OF BRITISH  
PARLIAMENT**

*Four female labour party politicians performed "The Vagina Monologues" with V-Day Founder/Playwright Eve Ensler on September 29th bringing the issues of violence against women to the center of UK policymaking*

October 25, 2002 - On Sunday September 29, 2002, four female Labour Party MP's performed *The Vagina Monologues* at the Labour Party Conference, Blackpool. While Prime Minister Tony Blair spent the day in debates regarding Great Britain's involvement in the attack on Iraq, over 200 politicians, trade unionists, civil servants, and fellow supporters of women's rights watched the female MP's: Margaret Moran MP for Luton South, Oona King MP- Bethnal Green and Bow, Linda Gilroy MP- Don Valley and Caroline Flint MP – Doncaste, and celebrity performers comedian Nina Wadia and the play's award-winning author and V-Day Founder Eve Ensler, present another view of the world - a view of a world without violence against women and girls. The performance launched the V-Day's 2003 campaign in the UK and was sponsored by UNISON, the public service trade union, as part of its campaign against violence against women.

V-Day is a global movement working towards a day when violence against women ceases and it is this vision that inspired the Labour MP's to bring the play into the heart of policy making. In the UK, V-Day is targeting politicians nationally, and in addition to the Labour Party Conference, the Scottish National Party Conference also hosted a production of the play by a group of local women. Immediately following the performance in Blackpool, plans were set forth for a full-scale V-Day 2003 benefit (V-Day Parliament 2003) in front of Parliament in February.

At the Labour party Conference, the unusual but inspired cast performed to a rapt audience and the performance succeeded in raising over £1000 to be donated to eight appointed V-Day charities: Refuge, Women's Aid Federation of England, FORWARD, International Planned Parenthood Federation, Greater London Domestic Violence Project, London Rape Crisis Centre, Southall Black Sisters and Newham Asian Women's Project. Immediately following the Labour Party performance of "The Vagina Monologues", attendees, from civil servants, to nurses, to a male elementary school teacher, to a member of the Anti-Nazi League committed to staging V-Day benefits in 2003 to raise awareness and funds to end violence against women and girls. These were all women and men determined to support V-Day and take the campaign to end violence against women to the heart of their workplaces, staging the play at conferences and Annual General Meetings and beginning a V-Day revolution.

V-Day campaigns internationally to raise awareness and funds for grassroots groups and charities that work to end violence against women through co-ordinating local V-Day benefit performances of *The Vagina Monologues* by groups of women across the world.

Earlier this year around 1000 women and men across the United Kingdom staged 54 performances of *The Vagina Monologues* bringing the message of V-Day to their local communities and raising £128,050 for local charities. This determination of spirit was honoured in a reception hosted by Margaret Moran MP as well as Patricia Hewitt and Barbara Roche, Ministers for Women, on 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2002. A sell-out gala, V-Day London 2002, held at the Royal Albert Hall in April boasted over 30 celebrity performers - including Isabella Rossellini, Beverly Knight,

Donna Air, Maureen Lipman, Caprice, Danni Minogue Josie Lawrence, Jenni Éclair and Lysette Antony dedicating their time and commitment to preventing violence against women.

In five years, V-Day has grown throughout the world from one benefit event in 1998 to over 800 V-Day benefits in 2002 where celebrations were held in an Anglican Church in Nova Scotia, a Maasai village in Kenya, a Lakota reservation in South Dakota, a stadium in Manila, a synagogue in Great Britain. There were sold out performances at Caesar's Palace in South Africa, The National Theater in Guatemala, The Royal Albert Hall in London, the Folies Bergeres in Paris, and the Apollo Theater in Harlem. At nearly 550 schools from Harvard to the HELP Institute in Selangor, Malaysia, from the University of the Philippines in Manila to the London School of Economics, over 7.5 million people were exposed to V-Day through its 2002 College Campaign. Roma women in Macedonia vowed to reverse ancient and heinous marriage practices that abuse women, girls were saved from female genital mutilation and allowed to be educated in Kenya, San Francisco was pronounced a Rape Free Zone by the City Council, Harlem was declared Vagina Friendly by the State Senator.

V-Day itself stages large-scale benefits and promotes innovative gatherings and programs (The Afghan Women's Summit, V-Day Safe House (Narok, Kenya is operational; house in Kabul, Afghanistan and Pine Ridge Reservaton, South Dakota, U.S.. are in the planning stages), The Stop Rape Contest, Indian Country Project, and more) to change social attitudes towards violence against women. In 2003, V-Day projects over 2003 V-Day benefit events will be staged during February-March 2003 to raise funds for local groups and awareness about the rampant issues of violence against women and girls throughout the world.

#### **About V-Day**

V-Day is a global movement to stop violence against women and girls. V-Day is a palpable energy, a fierce catalyst that promotes creative events to increase awareness, raise money, and revitalize the spirit of existing anti-violence organizations. V-Day generates broader attention for the fight to stop worldwide violence against women and girls including rape, battery, incest, female genital mutilation (FGM), and sexual slavery.

V-Day provides funding to create and nurture innovative programs to stop the violence.

Through V-Day campaigns, local volunteers and college students produce annual benefit performances of "The Vagina Monologues" to raise awareness and funds for anti-violence groups within their own communities.

V-Day itself stages large-scale benefits and promotes innovative gatherings and programs (The Afghan Women's Summit, The Stop Rape Contest, Indian Country Outreach, and more) to change social attitudes towards violence against women. In 2002, more than 800 V-Day benefit events were presented by local volunteer activists around the world, educating millions of people about the reality of violence against women and girls.

The V-Day movement is growing at a rapid pace throughout the world. V-Day, a non-profit corporation, distributes funds to grassroots, national, and international organizations and programs that work to stop violence against women and girls. V-Day was named one of Worth Magazine's "100 Best Charities" in 2001. In its first five years, the V-Day movement has raised over \$14 million, with over \$7 million raised in 2002 alone.

**The 'V' in V-Day stands for Victory, Valentine and Vagina.**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**V-DAY ANNOUNCES 'INDIAN COUNTRY PROJECT'**  
**TO RAISE AWARENESS AND FUNDS AROUND**  
**RAMPANT VIOLENCE FACING NATIVE AMERICAN AND FIRST NATIONS WOMEN:**

**NATIVE ACTIVIST SUZANNE BLUE STAR BOY APPOINTED**  
**DIRECTOR OF THE V-DAY 'INDIAN COUNTRY PROJECT'**

*'Kitchen Cabinet'- formed by Blue Star Boy - will consist of prominent Native activists including Tantoo Cardinal, Tillie Black Bear, Peggy Bird, Sara Deer, and Eileen Hudon*

October 10, 2002, V-Day, the global movement to stop violence against women and girls, formally announced today the launch of its **Indian Country Project** and the appointment of Native American activist Suzanne Blue Star Boy as Director of the Project. V-Day has developed the Indian Country Project to prioritize raising consciousness, awareness and money around the issues facing Native American women in the United States and First Nations women in Canada at a time when violence against women and girls in Indian Country is at epidemic proportions. According to the Bureau of Justice Statistics, the rate of incidence (of rape or sexual assault) is 3.5 times higher than any other race in the United States. The rate\* continues to rise while Indian women and girls remain invisible as an at risk population.

The project will also build coalitions to strengthen tribal commitments to end violence, beginning with the work of the newly formed 'Kitchen Cabinet, ' and V-Day will bring the issues facing native women in front of the world February - March 2003 via the hundreds of V-Day 2003 benefit events that are being staged worldwide.

On the announcement, V-Day Founder/Artistic Director Eve Ensler stated, "V-Day Rapid City 2002 was a devastating and inspirational experience in that we witnessed first hand the disturbing amount of violence in Indian country and the fierce determination and courage of the Native and First Nations women. 3.5 times as many women are violated on Indian reservations than anywhere else in North America. It is an outrage and a shame to see this kind of violence, poverty and isolation and it is all of our responsibility to heal this terrible wound. V-Day has decided to spotlight Native women this year and we are proud to announce that Suzanne Blue Star Boy has joined us to lead the Indian Country Project."

As Director of the V-Day Indian Country Project, the Washington, DC-based Ms. Blue Star Boy will travel across Indian Country to educate Native American and First Nations women about V-Day as a means to fundraise for local anti-violence groups and programs. On her appointment, she commented, "V-Day offers Indian Country a unique opportunity to raise awareness of the rampant problem of violence against Native women and girls and to spark sustainable, community-sponsored events. V-Day's successes offer a model with strong promise for Native American and First Nations women."

In addition, V-Day itself will educate about the specific issues of violence against Native American and First Nations women as part of its upcoming, worldwide V-Day 2003 campaigns and V-Day benefits (scheduled to take place February - March 2003). A central component of this education will be the expansion of the "Afghanistan Is Everywhere" program, which when launched in 2002, focused on Afghan women with the broader intention to unite women worldwide by pointing out the similarities between the experiences of the women of Afghanistan and those of women and girls in other areas of the world. In 2002, the world witnessed the violent oppression in which Afghan Women lived. V-Day sponsored the Spotlight on Afghan Women to raise funds for Afghan Women working

for change within their country. At the same time, V-Day declared, Afghanistan is Everywhere. In 2003, V-Day will launch '**Afghanistan Is Everywhere: A Spotlight On Native American and First Nations Women.**' This program will bring the issues facing native women to local V-Day events around the world, asking all people to stand with Native American women in their struggle to be free of violence. The program will also encourage event organizers to contribute 10% of their benefit proceeds to support work ending violence in Native American, Native Alaskan, and First Nations communities.

Immediately upon assuming her new role, Ms. Blue Star Boy implemented a '**Kitchen Cabinet**', a non-traditional advisory board for the 'V-Day Indian Country Project' comprised of Tantoo Cardinal (the Native American actress who has appeared in critically acclaimed films including "Dances With Wolves" and "Smoke Signals," among many others), Tillie Black Bear (a founding member of the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence, Black Bear also helped form the South Dakota Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault, recipient of the Eleanor Roosevelt Award); Peggy Bird (currently a private consultant working with Clan Star, Inc., the technical assistance provider for the tribal coalitions, and former Director of DNA's Native American Family Violence Prevention Project); Sarah Deer (Staff Attorney for the Tribal Law & Policy Institute in West Hollywood, California, also worked for DOJ for several years as the Director of the STOP GRANTS and VAWA money with the tribes); Eileen Hudon (currently working in Minnesota on domestic violence and sexual assault issues, Hudon was formerly the director of Songidee Biimadaziwin, a sexual assault program at the Minnesota Indian Women's Resource Center in Minneapolis).

#### About V-Day

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The V-Day movement is growing at a rapid pace throughout the world. V-Day, a non-profit corporation, distributes funds to grassroots, national, and international organizations and programs that work to stop violence against women and girls. V-Day was named one of Worth Magazine's "100 Best Charities" in 2001. In its first five years, the V-Day movement has raised over \$14 million, with over \$7 million raised in 2002 alone.

#### **The 'V' in V-Day stands for Victory, Valentine and Vagina.**

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\* According to the "American Indians and Crime" report (US Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics, February 1999) for the period 1992-1996:

American Indians were the victims of rape or sexual assault at 3.5 times the rate of United States residents of other races.

About 90% of the American Indian victims of rape or sexual assault reported an offender of a different race.

Nearly a third of all American Indian victims of violence were between the ages of 18 and 24.

Some Native Americans, service providers and national researchers believe that, even though statistics reflect an alarming rate of sexual violence in Indian Country, the rate of sexual assault in particular is underrepresented, most likely due to being underreported. The history of cultural and personal oppression of Native American and First Nations women, their fear of familial reprisal and shame, and the overlapping and confusing federal, state and tribal



legal jurisdictions that can hinder investigations and prosecutions, discourage Native American women victims of violence from pursuing support and justice and leaves them feeling helpless and fearful.



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**V-DAY ANNOUNCES V-WORLD SUMMIT,  
THE FIRST EVER INTERNATIONAL GATHERING OF V-DAY ACTIVISTS TO TAKE PLACE IN  
ROME, FRIDAY-SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 20-21:**

**SUMMIT WILL STRATEGIZE ENDING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN FACILITATED BY  
FOUNDER/PLAYWRIGHT EVE ENSLER:**

**ACADEMY AWARD WINNING ACTRESS AND ACTIVIST JANE FONDA  
AND LIFETIME PRESIDENT & CEO CAROLE BLACK TO ATTEND**

September 6, 2002 - V-Day, the global movement to end violence against women and girls, will hold its first V-World Summit in Rome, Friday-Saturday, September 20-21, it was announced today. At the Summit, more than 25 international V-Day activists, women who have brought a V-Day event, or the V-Day movement, into their cities, communities, countries and cultures, will convene and construct the vision necessary to end violence against women and girls.

**NOTE: A press conference is scheduled for the opening of the V-World Summit on Friday, September 20 at 11:00AM. Museo D'Arte Contemporanea Roma, Via Reggio Emilia 54, Alle Ore 11. At the press conference, V-Day Founder/Artistic Director Playwright Eve Ensler, V-Counsel member Jane Fonda and the attending activists will unveil V-Day's 2003 vision statement which asks women and men around the world to envision a world without violence and let V-Day become V-World.**

V-Day activists from countries including Afghanistan, Bosnia, Bulgaria, Croatia, Democratic Republic Of Congo, France, Germany, Guatemala, India, Italy, Kenya, Macedonia, Mexico, Philippines, South Africa, United Kingdom, and the United States will strategize through facilitation by V-Day Founder/Playwright Eve Ensler, to make a V-World, a world in which women and girls truly do live without violence. As part of the summit agenda, the activists will discuss their successes to date within their communities, how they can make V-World a part of their 2003 activities, and, more broadly, strategize a 3-year plan to make real movement in ending violence.

Esteemed members of V-Day's newly formed advisory group - known as the V-Counsel - including Academy Award winning actress and activist Jane Fonda and President & CEO Lifetime Entertainment Services Carole Black are scheduled to attend and participate.

The V-Day activists scheduled to attend are: Agnes Pareyio - Narok, Kenya; Winfridah Anyango - Eldoret, Kenya; Janet Kiarie - Nairobi, Kenya; Mary Morten - Chicago, IL, USA; Noelle Colome - San Francisco, CA, USA; Angelina Corbet - Charlotte, NC, USA; Rada Boric - Skopje, Macedonia and Zagreb, Croatia; Nuna Zvizdic - Sarajevo, Bosnia; Mariana Katarova - Bulgaria; Kevsera Memedova - Skopje, Macedonia; Irene Martine Ndaya Nabote - Lumbabashi, Dem Rep of Congo; Lynne Mausenbaum - Johannesburg, South Africa; Claude Boucher - Paris, France; Marie Cécile Renauld - Paris, France; Tamsin Larby - London, England; Nicoletti Billi - Rome, Italy; Monica Capuani - Rome, Italy; Karin Heisecke - Germany; Monique Wilson - Manila, Philippines; Rossana Abueva - Manila, Philippines; Shabnam Hashmi - Delhi, India; Esther Chavez - Juarez, Mexico; Marsha Lopez - Guatemala City, Guatemala; Zoya - Afghanistan

### **About V-Day**

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Through V-Day campaigns, local volunteers and college students produce annual benefit performances of "The Vagina Monologues" to raise awareness and funds for anti-violence groups within their own communities. V-Day itself stages large-scale benefits and promotes innovative gatherings and programs (The Afghan Women's Summit, The Stop Rape Contest, Indian Country Project, and more) to change social attitudes towards violence against women. In 2002, more than 800 V-Day benefit events were presented by local volunteer activists around the world, educating millions of people about the reality of violence against women and girls.

The V-Day movement is growing at a rapid pace throughout the world. V-Day, a non-profit corporation, distributes funds to grassroots, national, and international organizations and programs that work to stop violence against women and girls. V-Day was named one of Worth Magazine's "100 Best Charities" in 2001. In its first five years, the V-Day movement has raised over \$14 million, with over \$7 million raised in 2002 alone.

The 'V' in V-Day stands for Victory, Valentine and Vagina.



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Contact:** Susan Celia Swan, (917) 865-6603 (, [press@vday.org](mailto:press@vday.org))

**V-DAY NAMES JERRI LYNN FIELDS NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

August 8, 2002 - New York, NY - Jerri Lynn Fields has been named the Executive Director of V-Day, the global movement to end violence against women and girls, it was announced today by V-Day Artistic Director and Founder Eve Ensler.

"We are thrilled to have Jerri Lynn Fields as our new Executive Director. Her spirit, her capacity to organize and manage, and her great heart will guide us as we continue to expand as a global movement," stated Ensler on making the announcement.

On her appointment, Ms. Fields commented, "To make the move from being one of the very front line anti-violence groups that V-Day supports to working with Eve and the V-Day staff who lead the charge is both challenging and a dream come true. V-Day celebrates the strength of women while providing support and it is a pleasure to join this groundbreaking movement with both the vision and the mission to effectively raise awareness and funds in the fight to end violence against women."

In her new role which she assumed in April, Fields will oversee the day to day operations of the V-Day movement including supervising the core staff of directors, financial management, and the growing calendar of events and programmatic work around the world, all part of the V-Day mission to raise awareness and funds to stop violence against women and girls.

Fields came to V-Day in 2001 as the Development and Communications director after serving in the same role with the Fund for the City of New York. Her career in women's and human services began immediately after obtaining a master's degree in College Student Personnel Administration, when she began working in human services at Horizons Community Services in Chicago, the largest gay and lesbian social service agency in the Midwest, where she served as Director of Youth Services, Anti-Violence Project Director and Director of Programs. She then led Rape Victim Advocates in Chicago as executive director for three years.

She was the president of the Illinois Coalition Against Sexual Assault and served on the Governor's Commission on the Status of Women in Illinois. She has served on the board of Equality Illinois and the Center for Anti-Violence Education in Brooklyn, NY and is currently on the Leadership Committee of Rape Victim Advocates and the Advisory Council of RAINN, the National Sexual Assault Hotline.

Fields replaces previous Executive Director Willa Shalit, who served in that role since 1998 and was one of the original group of women who founded V-Day with Ensler in late 1997.

**About V-Day:** V-Day is a global movement that helps anti-violence organizations throughout the world continue and expand their core work on the ground, while drawing public attention to the larger fight to stop worldwide violence (including rape, battery, incest, female genital mutilation (FGM), sexual slavery) against women and girls. V-Day is also a day (on or around Valentine's Day in February), for which annual theatrical and artistic events are produced around the world to transform consciousness, raise money, and revitalize the spirit of existing anti-violence organizations. Each year, V-Day promotes a series of innovative productions, events and initiatives that are identified collectively as V-Day and the year (i.e. V-Day 2001, V-Day 2002, V-Day 2003S~). In 2002, V-Day evolved from one day - Valentine's Day - into a 13-week calendar of events and social action campaigns. From January 24 - April 20, 2002, more than 800 benefit productions of Ensler's play, "The Vagina Monologues," took place in theatres, community centers, houses of worship, and college campuses around the world.

The movement is growing at a rapid pace throughout the world. V-Day, a non-profit corporation, distributes funds to grassroots national, and international organizations and programs that work to stop violence against women and girls. In its first four years, V-Day raised more than \$7 million and was named one of Worth Magazine's "100 Best Charities." In 2002, the V-Day movement raised nearly \$7 million.

The 'V' in V-Day stands for Victory, Valentine, and Vagina.



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**V-DAY RAPID CITY 2002 EVENT RAISES FIFTY THOUSAND DOLLARS  
TOWARDS BUILDING OF NEW CANGLESKA SHELTER:**

*As a result of the event, V-Day announces Indian country initiative to raise awareness and money around the issues facing Native women in the U.S.*

August 1, 2002, Rapid City, SD - V-Day, the global movement to stop violence against women and girls, announced today the fundraising results of the V-Day Rapid City 2002 benefit for Cangleska, Inc., a private, nonprofit tribally chartered organization, which provides domestic violence and sexual assault services to the people of the Oglala Lakota Nation on the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota.

Proceeds from the successful V-Day Rapid City 2002 event "*On Sacred Ground...A Safe Place*" raised \$40,000 via ticket sales and Jane Fonda, who participated in the evening, has donated \$10,000. The total of \$50,000 will go towards the building of a new shelter. V-Day is continuing to work with Cangleska to raise funds for the shelter.

As a result of the event, and its work with Cangleska, V-Day, the global movement to stop violence against women and girls, has prioritized raising consciousness, awareness and money around the issues facing Native women in this country and has launched the Indian Country Initiative. Native activist Suzanne Blue Star Boy, who leads the initiative, will travel across Indian Country to educate Native women about V-Day as a means to fundraise for local anti-violence programs. In addition, V-Day will seek to educate about the issues of violence against Native women in its upcoming V-Day 2003 campaigns and benefits (scheduled to take place during February – April 2003).

V-Day Rapid City 2002 featured the Rapid City premiere of V-Day Artistic Director and Founder/Playwright Eve Ensler's performing her world-renowned play "*The Vagina Monologues*," with special guests Jane Fonda, Tantoo Cardinal, and musical guests ULALI. Jenny Ghost Bear opened the event at the Ramkota Hotel and Convention Center with a Lakota Four Directions song. Marlin Mousseau, George Twiss, and Karen Artichoker, Management Team Directors for Cangleska, Inc. thanked V-Day and the Rapid City community for its support and concern for Oglala women and children.

In Indian country, the rate of violence against women is the highest in the nation. According to the Bureau of Justice Statistics, the average annual rate of rape and sexual assault among American Indians is 3.5 times higher than for all other races.

**About Cangleska, Inc.:**

Cangleska, Inc. (pronounced Chung Gle Shka) is a private, non-profit 501 (c) (3) and tribally chartered organization, serving the Oglala Lakota Nation on the Pine Ridge Reservation, in Kyle, South Dakota. Cangleska's purpose is to

provide domestic violence and sexual assault prevention and intervention services to the people of the Oglala Lakota Nation. Cangleska, Inc. is nationally recognized as the leader in Indian Country in response to domestic violence and sexual assault. Their shelter and outreach advocates provide services to over 800 women per year and thousands of children. The Oglala Lakota Tribe is in a state of emergency regarding the violence within the family and the present facility used as a shelter for women who are battered and their children is inadequate to meet the need.

#### **About V-Day**

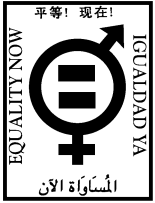
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V-Day, a non-profit corporation, distributes funds to grassroots national, and international organizations and programs that work to stop violence against women and girls. In just five years, V-Day has raised over \$7 million and was recently named one of Worth Magazine's "100 Best Charities".

**The 'V' in V-Day stands for Victory, Valentine, and Vagina.**

###



[www.equalitynow.org](http://www.equalitynow.org)

**V**DAY  
UNTIL THE VIOLENCE STOPS



[www.vday.org](http://www.vday.org)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**VAGINAS ARE VICTORIOUS IN LUBUMBASHI COURT**

**RIGHT TO PRODUCE T WITH HELP FROM EQUALITY NOW, CONGOLESE WOMEN'S RIGHTS GROUP WINS THE HE VAGINA MONOLOGUES FOR V-DAY IN LUBUMBASHI**

**NEW YORK, July 19, 2002:** Yesterday was a day of victory for **Irene Martine, Director of the Center of Hope for Girls and Women (CEFF)**—an NGO in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), working to end violence against women and to promote the rights of women and girls in the DRC.

Stopped by local authorities from staging a V-Day benefit production of “The Vagina Monologues” in April, Ms. Martine was arrested at the instigation of the Mayor of Lubumbashi and charged with: (i) insubordination; (ii) pornography and the incitement of minors to debauchery; (iii) incitement of girls and women to rebellion; and (iv) importation of Western ideas.

She was detained for two weeks. Women and girls who came to demonstrate on her behalf were themselves arrested as they were singing songs of protest and also detained.

**Equality Now** was alerted by **V-Day** to the plight of Ms. Martine, and through its LAW (Lawyers Alliance for Women) Project—an initiative to promote equality for women through law—encouraged Ms. Martine to challenge the charges against her. The LAW Project also secured funding to enable Ms. Martine to hire a lawyer, who convinced the court to summon the Mayor to explain his actions.

At a hearing on July 10<sup>th</sup>, Ms. Martine’s lawyer cross-examined the Mayor, disputing each of the charges as either unsubstantiated or not criminal in nature. He pointed out, for example, that the Mayor himself was wearing a suit that was “100% importation of western mentalities.”

Several thousand women and girls reportedly came to court to support Ms. Martine, and the crowd in the courthouse booed the Mayor of Lubumbashi when he allegedly stated that Ms. Martine’s attempt to perform the Vagina Monologues was an attempt “to destroy culture and families.”

The court found in favor of Ms. Martine, and imposed a heavy fine or 6 months imprisonment on the Mayor, who apologized, reportedly stating, “I am not only apologizing to Madam Irene, her team and to the court, but my apology goes to all Congolese women and to all women on this earth.”

Equality Now and V-Day welcome the ruling, which is a great success for Ms. Martine, CEFF, V-Day and all women and girls in the DRC.

*Equality Now is an international human rights organization working to protect women's rights.*

*V-Day is a global movement to stop violence against women and girls.*



**\*\*MEDIA ALERT**

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CONTACT: Susan Celia Swan, 917 865 6603 , [press@vday.org](mailto:press@vday.org), Alex Petti 917 538 1054

**SPECIAL V-DAY BRIEFING ON THE CRISIS IN GUJARAT, INDIA:  
V-DAY FOUNDER/PLAYWRIGHT EVE ENSLER TO CHAIR BRIEFING BY NOTED INDIAN  
ACTIVIST AND DOCUMENTARIAN SHABNAM HASHMI  
WEDNESDAY, JULY 17 AT 8:30AM**

*Ms. Hashmi will brief the media, key opinion leaders, and the public on the ongoing Gujarat atrocities, as well as on the cross-communal peace efforts of Hindu-Muslim women*

**WHO:** Special V-Day briefing on the crisis in Gujarat, India and on the cross-communal peace efforts of Hindu-Muslim women chaired by V-Day Founder/Playwright Eve Ensler, briefing by noted Indian activist and documentarian Shabnam Hashmi. A citizen of India, Ms. Hashmi has been working to end communal violence and preserve freedom of expression in India for many years. She has served as V-Day's South Asia coordinator for the past 3 years. With her husband, Ms. Hashmi has just completed a documentary on Gujarat, never before seen outside of India. She has traveled to over 25 villages and districts over the past three months mobilizing relief and documenting the atrocities against women. Along with two colleagues she has also produced an exhibition on Gujarat called "Harvest of Hatred", which will be on display in the Congressional Cannon House Office Building on Capitol Hill in Washington, DC Thursday and Friday, July 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>.

**WHAT:** Hundreds of innocents, including many women and children, have been killed and brutalized in Gujarat since late February. Ms. Hashmi will present stories of women who were brutalized and raped in their homes and refugee camps, and also share the strategies of Muslim and Hindu women who are demanding justice and human rights for the victims. She will show a clip from the documentary, which was funded, in part, by an award from V-Day. At the briefing, Ms. Hashmi will provide direct information about the communal violence in Gujarat and the immeasurable effects of this catastrophe on women and children so that the audience may understand how they might help and work to stop the violence.

**NOTE:** This special V-Day briefing also serves as the launch of one of V-Day's newest initiatives to bring its global movement to end violence against women and girls to Muslim, Islamic and African countries spearheaded by newly appointed V-Day Special Representative Hibaaq Osman.

**WHEN:** Wednesday, July 17<sup>th</sup>, 8:30 – 10:00AM, a light breakfast will be served.

**WHERE:** 90 Park Ave., between 39<sup>th</sup> & 40<sup>th</sup> Streets, Suite 1700 (17<sup>th</sup> floor), NYC

**RSVP REQUIRED:** Susan Celia Swan/Alex Petti (212) 445-3288, [press@vday.org](mailto:press@vday.org)

**About V-Day:** V-Day is a global movement to stop violence against women and girls, founded by V-Day Founder and Artistic Director Eve Ensler, author of "The Vagina Monologues." Through its fundraising benefits and awareness programs, V-Day helps anti-violence organizations throughout the world continue and expand their core work on the ground, while drawing public attention to the larger fight to stop worldwide violence (including rape, battery, incest, female genital mutilation [FGM], and sexual slavery) against women and girls. In 2002, over 800 V-Day benefits and social action campaigns were held between late January and April 2002 in theatres, houses of worship, and college campuses around the world in locations as diverse as Shanghai, China; Harlem, NY; Sacramento, CA; Nova Scotia, Canada; Duluth, MN; and Cebu City in the Philippines. Each year, V-Day promotes such a series of innovative productions, events and initiatives that are identified collectively as V-Day and the current year (i.e. V-Day 2001, V-Day 2002, V-Day 2003...). The 'V' in V-Day stands for Victory, Valentine, and Vagina.



A non-profit corporation, V-Day distributes funds to grassroots, national, and international organizations and programs that work to stop violence against women and girls. In just five years, V-Day has raised over \$13.5million and was recently named one of *Worth Magazine's* "100 Best Charities." Approximately 10% of all proceeds from V-Day 2002 productions worldwide were earmarked for the women of Afghanistan.



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Contact:**

Susan Celia Swan for V-Day +1 917 865 6603, [press@vday.org](mailto:press@vday.org)

**V-DAY SAFE HOUSE TO OPEN IN NAROK, KENYA FOR GIRLS  
ESCAPING FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION (FGM) AND EARLY CHILDHOOD MARRIAGES:**

**LOCAL COMMUNITY GROUP TASARU NTOMOMOK TO RUN THE SAFE HOUSE WHICH WILL  
OPEN ON MONDAY, APRIL 8:**

*V-Day Founder/Playwright Eve Ensler to attend at the Grand Opening*

April 5, 2002- New York and Narok, Kenya - V-Day, the global movement to stop violence against women and girls, today announced the opening of the first V-Day Safe House in Narok, Kenya on Monday, April 8. The Narok Safe House will have 40 beds and is intended as a safe haven for young girls seeking refuge from Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) and early childhood marriage. Noted Kenyan activist and V-Day beneficiary Agnes Pareyio, one of the founders of Tasuru Ntomomok will oversee the V-Day Safe house there.

Tasuru Ntomomok is a community-based, non-profit organization that educates the community on the dangers of FGM and early childhood marriages and also provides an alternative to the ritual of FGM. When she began her work 2 1/2 years ago, Pareyio would walk from village to village with a replica of the female genitalia both cut and uncut in order to illustrate the effects of FGM on the young women. As a result of the group's awareness campaign, girls started saying "No" to FGM and turning to the group for refuge.

On the group's work and Pareyio, V-Day Founder/Playwright Eve Ensler stated, "Two years ago, I met Agnes Pareyio in the field educating a group on the dangers of FGM. By simply educating girls and their relatives, both male and female, she was enacting revolutionary change, she was saving girls from the cut."

Immediately following that visit, V-Day purchased a Jeep for Agnes so she could cover more territory and reach more people and also began fundraising for the first V-Day safe house where girls could seek refuge. The importance of the Safe house lies in the fact that once educated about the cut, girls require a safe place to seek refuge. Without a safe haven, many of the girls will be forced to undergo FGM.

Pareyio stated, "Eve and V-DAY started by donating a jeep that has enabled me to reach my people - the Maasai - who are deeply rooted by their traditional cultures and who still hold their beliefs that girls can not be a woman without the cut. With the opening of the Safe House, girls who have escaped the cut can undergo an alternative ritual which I hope my people will grow to understand and adopt."

For the alternative rite of passage without the cut, Tasaru Ntomomok takes girls into a 5-day seclusion during which they teach them to know themselves and empower them to make informed decisions about their own lives. This education intentionally reflects the Masai culture, where women start teaching their girls immediately after forced FGM when they are still in seclusion. Tasaru Ntomomok believes the teachings are important and should continue, but without the pain of the cut.

To date, the organization has been able to rescue many girls who are staying with well-wishers until the V-Day Safe House opens. V-DAY has also facilitated 2 seminars where 150 girls graduated without the cut. On Monday in Narok, 40 more girls will graduate with Ensler handing out their certificates.

The V-Day Safe House in Narok is the first V-Day Safe House to open. On April 20 in Rapid City, SD, USA, V-Day will hold a fundraising event for the second V-Day Safe House which will be built Native Sioux Land to serve Native American women.

#### **About V-Day**

V-Day is a global movement that helps anti-violence organizations throughout the world continue and expand their core work on the ground, while drawing public attention to the larger fight to stop worldwide violence (including rape, battery, incest, female genital mutilation (FGM), sexual slavery) against women and girls.

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V-Day, a non-profit corporation, distributes funds to grassroots national, and international organizations and programs that work to stop violence against women and girls. In just five years, V-Day has raised over \$7 million and was recently named one of Worth Magazine's "100 Best Charities".

#### **V-Day 2002 sponsors and marketing partners:**

To date, V-Day's 2002 corporate sponsors include Fairmont Hotels & Resorts, Lifetime Television, Liz Claiborne, Marie Claire, and Tampax. V-Day's 2002 marketing partners include Eziba (V-Day's exclusive retailer: <http://www.eziba.com/vday>), Karen Neuberger (V-Day pajamas), SUNDĀRI, and Vosges Haut-Chocolat.

**The 'V' in V-Day stands for Victory, Valentine, and Vagina.**

###



**MEDIA ALERT**

Contact: Susan Celia Swan for V-Day, (917) 865 6603, [press@vday.org](mailto:press@vday.org)

**V-DAY AND EQUALITY NOW IN AFGHANISTAN FOR GROUND-BREAKING ROUNDTABLE TALKS:**

**V-DAY EXPANDS ITS FOCUS ON WOMEN AND WAR AS SPONSOR OF KABUL TALKS AND SPONSOR OF NYC SPECIAL PERFORMANCE OF "NECESSARY TARGETS" FOR THE UN COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN**

*Founder/playwright Eve Ensler, Equality Now Founder/President Jessica Neuwirth, Afghan Women's Organization Founder/Director Adeena Niazi, and V-Day Special Representative Hibaaq Osman join 30 grassroots Afghan women leaders on March 9-10 in Kabul*

March 7, 2002 – Eve Ensler (V-Day Founder/Playwright), Jessica Neuwirth (Founder/President, Equality Now), Addena Niaza (Afghan Women's Organization), and Hibaaq Osman (V-Day) are holding their first meetings in Kabul with Afghan women leaders since the defeat of the Taliban to discuss historic next steps for Afghan women. More than 30 prominent Afghan women leaders have traveled against all odds from Kandahar, Jalalabad, Herat, and other regions for the roundtable discussions scheduled to take place in March 9-10. A follow up to the Afghan Women's Summit For Democracy (held in Brussels in December), the Kabul talks will focus on their current conditions, women's rights progress, and strategies for reconstruction. Talks will coincide with International Women's Day (March 8).

For Ensler, who traveled underground in Afghanistan two years ago, her return to Afghanistan is timely on many levels, "From Kosovo to Kabul, women are often the targets of war but in order for peace to be restored, they must be at the center of the solution. We are focusing on bringing the stories of these women to the world. These stories must be told if we are going to stop this from happening again." In Afghanistan, V-Day has partnered with Broadcast News Network's in-country team, who will provide a broad range of logistical, operational, and editorial support service designed to permit the group to securely meet and to film the talks for future broadcast in the U.S. and around the world.

The Kabul talks coincide with the opening of Ensler's play "Necessary Targets" Off-Broadway in NYC ([www.necessarytargets.com](http://www.necessarytargets.com)). Based on interviews with numerous women who survived the civil war in the former Yugoslavia, "Necessary Targets" provides a timely reminder of the effects of war on women in America and overseas. This Sunday, March 10, the matinee will be a special performance for participants in the UN Commission on the Status of Women meetings, followed by a panel discussion "No Women, No Peace: The Urgency of Implementation of Security Council Resolution 1325", moderated by Cora Weiss, Hague Appeal for Peace. (Play 3:00-4:30PM, Panel Discussion 4:30-5:30PM, General public is welcome, for reservations contact Judy Corcoran (212) 315-2449).

While in Kabul, Ensler will also deliver the much-needed first phase in the development of a working telecommunications infrastructure for the Afghan women leaders with the delivery of state of the art satellite phone systems outfitted with solar chargers and free airtime. At this time, there is no traditional phone service in Afghanistan and satellite phones remain both scarce and expensive. This infrastructure will allow Afghan women in all regions of the country to communicate with each other, and with their advocates in the west.

Sponsored by V-Day, the global movement to stop violence against women and girls and a long-time advocate for Afghan women, the immediate goal for the talks are fourfold: (1) To provide a forum for Afghan women leaders

from all regions and ethnic groups to discuss the issues facing their country; (2) To aid in making the Brussels Proclamation a living document for Afghan women; (3) To assess immediate needs to determine V-Day funding efforts for Afghan women; (4) To bring the message of Afghan women back to women in the west, and around the world, through the "Afghanistan is Everywhere" campaign and the video documenting the Kabul roundtable discussions.

The Kabul talks will address progress towards enacting the Brussels Proclamation, the blueprint that outlines in detail the Afghan Women's Summit's comprehensive vision for the future and their immediate, and still pending, reconstruction needs. The document carried the message that significant portions of any international aid should go to projects benefiting women, as well as a full restoration of women's rights as citizens and the participation of women in drafting new laws and a future constitution and addresses four central components of Afghan society: education and culture, healthcare, refugees and human rights. The full text of the Brussels Proclamation can be found at [www.vday.org/afghanistan](http://www.vday.org/afghanistan). Following the daily talks from 8:00AM-5:00PM, the evening sessions include traditional dinner, dancing, entertainment and art programs.

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#### **About The Afghan Women's Summit for Democracy:**

The Afghan Women's Summit was a two-day global gathering of Afghan women held in Brussels December 4-5, 2001. Over 40 grassroots Afghan women leaders, broadly representative of women in Afghanistan, took part in the Summit and issued the Brussels Proclamation. The goal of the Summit was to bring the voices of the Afghan women into the current international political discourse, ensuring that their message is heard and that women have equal say and rights in the new government. Following the Summit, a delegation of six Afghan women from the meeting carried their message to key political decision-makers around the world, including the United Nations, Congress, the State Department, European Parliament, and key media and cultural leaders. The Afghan Women's Summit was organized by women's rights organizations from around the world - European Women's Lobby, Equality Now, V-Day, the Center for Strategic Initiatives of Women, and The Feminist Majority, in collaboration with the Gender Advisor to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and UNIFEM.

#### **About V-Day:**

V-Day is a global movement that helps anti-violence organizations throughout the world continue and expand their core work on the ground, while drawing public attention to the larger fight to stop worldwide violence (including rape, battery, incest, female genital mutilation (FGM), sexual slavery) against women and girls. The concept for V-Day was borne out of two of V-Day Founder Eve Ensler's plays: "Necessary Targets" and "The Vagina Monologues." V-Day, a non-profit corporation, distributes funds to grassroots national, and international organizations and programs that work to stop violence against women and girls. In just five years, V-Day has raised over \$7 million and was recently named one of Worth Magazine's "100 Best Charities". <http://www.vday.org>

#### **About Equality Now:**

Equality Now is an international human rights organization working to end violence and discrimination against women. Issues of concern include rape, domestic violence, trafficking of women, female genital mutilation, denial of reproductive rights, equal access to education and employment, and political participation of women. Through its Women's Action Network, which has 25,000 members in more than one hundred countries around the world, Equality Now highlights human rights violations against women and girls and mobilizes public pressure to stop them. <http://www.equalitynow.org>

#### ***About "Necessary Targets":***

"Necessary Targets," the new play by Eve Ensler, is directed by Michael Wilson and stars Tony and Emmy Award-winner and two-time Oscar nominee Shirley Knight and film and stage star Diane Venora. In "Necessary Targets," two American women, a Park Avenue psychiatrist and an ambitious young writer, travel to Bosnia to help women refugees confront their memories of war. Based on interviews conducted by Eve Ensler with numerous women who survived the civil war in the former Yugoslavia, "Necessary Targets," is a timely reminder of how America struggles to define its relationship to the rest of the world. At the Variety Arts Theatre, 110 Third Avenue at 14<sup>th</sup> Street, NYC. <http://www.necessarytargets.com>

***About BNN:***

Since 1983, BNN, the largest independent producer of news and documentary has been at the forefront of both production and innovation. The company has produced hundreds of hours of news documentary programming for clients that include A&E, CNN, CBS, CourtTV, NBC, RTL and the BBC. Most recently, the company produced the first ever High Definition TV reports from a war zone, with Chief Correspondent Peter Arnett and a series of programs that took an extraordinary look at the destruction of the World Trade Center -- 24 Hours at Ground Zero for MSNBC and Voices from Ground Zero for TLC. Visit the company online at <http://www.bnntv.com>.



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**V-DAY ANNOUNCES ITS 2002 BENEFIT SHOW IN NYC –  
V-DAY HARLEM 2002 – PRESENTED BY ESSENCE,  
PRODUCED BY ACTORS LISAGAY HAMILTON AND ROSIE PEREZ  
AT THE WORLD FAMOUS APOLLO THEATRE,  
SATURDAY, MARCH 30:**

**BENEFIT PROCEEDS TO GO TO COMMUNITY GROUPS DEDICATED TO STOPPING VIOLENCE  
AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS:**

**CAST TO INCLUDE:**

**ROSIE PEREZ, LISAGAY HAMILTON, SALMA HAYEK, HIP-HOP ARTIST EVE, NAOMI CAMPBELL,  
ROSARIO DAWSON, DENYCE GRAVES, LYNN WHITFIELD, HAZELLE GOODMAN,  
SWEET HONEY IN THE ROCK, V-DAY FOUNDER/PLAYWRIGHT EVE ENSLER,  
AMONG OTHERS**

*Tickets are on sale now at Ticketmaster; In association with HBO, CR Enterprises, Inc., and People En Español*

February 28, 2002 - New York, NY – V-Day, the global movement to stop violence against women and girls, today announced its 2002 benefit show in NYC - V-Day Harlem 2002, presented by ESSENCE, in association with HBO, CR Enterprises, Inc. and People En Español, at the world famous Apollo Theatre on Saturday, March 30 at 7:00PM. V-Day Harlem 2002 is the passion of actors LisaGay Hamilton and Rosie Perez, who have both performed in V-Day benefits, including last year's sold-out V-Day 2001 event at Madison Square Garden, as well as in commercial productions of "The Vagina Monologues" throughout the country.

Produced by Hamilton and Perez, V-Day Harlem 2002 will feature a performance of V-Day Artistic Director and Founder Eve Ensler's play, "The Vagina Monologues," music, and dance by a diverse cast including: LisaGay Hamilton, Rosie Perez, Eve, Salma Hayek, Naomi Campbell, Mary Alice, Dr. Bhaswati Bhattacharya, Starla Benford, Kim Crenshaw, Rosario Dawson, Eve Ensler, Takayo Fischer, Free (BET's 106 & Park), Hazelle Goodman, Denyce Graves, Amy Hill, Madhur Jaffey, Sakina Jaffey, Miss Jones, LaChanze, Amel Larrieux, Lisa Liguillo, Mariposa, Angie Martinez, S. Epatha Merkerson, Hibaqa Osman, Tonya Pinkins, Carolyna Skywalker, Sweet Honey in the Rock, Eddie Torres Latin Dancers, Tamara Tunie, Lauren Velez, Kerry Washington, Lynn Whitfield, and more...

Proceeds from V-Day Harlem 2002 will benefit the African American Task Force on Violence Against Women In Central Harlem; The Dominican Women's Development Center, the Violence Intervention Program; and Sakhi; all are community-based organizations dedicated to stopping violence against women.

On the announcement, LisaGay Hamilton and Rosie Perez stated, "After witnessing the effect of V-Day 2001 last year at Madison Square Garden, we were compelled to bring V-Day to Harlem. We invite everyone in the community to join us at V-Day Harlem, to come together to stop violence against women and girls."

Eve Ensler, V-Day Artistic Director/Founder and Playwright, noted, "V-Day's mission is to end violence against women and girls by raising awareness and funds. This year, over 800 V-Day benefits will do just that in cities from Cebu City,

Philippines, to South Central, LA, from Paris, France to Juarez, Mexico. It is so very exciting to see V-Day come to Harlem in 2002 and we thank the community for its support.”

Dr. Camille O. Cosby and Susan L. Taylor of Essence Communications Partners are Honorary Chairs of V-Day Harlem 2002.

"ESSENCE magazine has a proud history of tackling the tough social issues confronting Black women," says Susan L. Taylor, ESSENCE editorial director and V-Day Harlem honorary chairwoman. "V-Day Harlem is a powerful event we are presenting to focus our community on ending violence against women and girls."

Ticket prices are \$25, \$50, \$100, \$250, \$500 and \$1000.

\*\*\$250. tickets are available now at Ticketmaster - #(877) 870-4929 and <http://www.ticketmaster.com> and the Apollo Box Office at 253 West 125<sup>th</sup> Street, (212) 531-5305.

\*\*\$500 and \$1000 tickets are available via phone (212) 252-3136.

For additional information, visit: <http://www.essence.com/vdayharlem> and <http://www.vday.org>

In 2002, V-Day has evolved from one day - Valentine's Day – into a 13-week calendar of events and social action campaigns. From January 24 – April 20, 2002, more than 800 benefit productions of Ensler's play, "The Vagina Monologues," are taking place in theatres, community centers, houses of worship, and college campuses around the world.

Throughout the world, V-Day benefits are shaped by their organizers and the local community. V-Day events range from 5000-seat theatrical productions featuring local stars, actresses and activists to 100 person 'rallies' in the town square. All V-Day benefits feature a performance of "The Vagina Monologues." All donate their proceeds to local organizations that work to stop violence against women and girls.

#### **About V-Day**

V-Day is a global movement that helps anti-violence organizations throughout the world continue and expand their core work on the ground, while drawing public attention to the larger fight to stop worldwide violence (including rape, battery, incest, female genital mutilation (FGM), sexual slavery) against women and girls.

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#### **About ESSENCE:**

With more than 8 million readers, ESSENCE is the preeminent magazine for Black women. Published by Essence Communications Partners, it is the leading source of cutting-edge information relating to every area of African-American women's lives. For 31 years, ESSENCE has celebrated personal achievement, chronicled social movement, documented struggles, showcased beauty, defined and set trends, and illustrated the incredible journey of a resilient and splendid race. Additional information about ESSENCE is available at <http://www.essence.com>. Media contact: Rhonda Evans, ESSENCE, (212) 642-0676, [revans@essence.com](mailto:revans@essence.com)

#### **V-Day 2002 sponsors and marketing partners:**

To date, V-Day's 2002 corporate sponsors include Fairmont Hotels & Resorts, Lifetime Television, Liz Claiborne, Marie Claire, and Tampax. V-Day's 2002 marketing partners include Eziba (V-Day's exclusive retailer: <http://www.eziba.com/vday>), Karen Neuburger (V-Day pajamas), SUNDARI, and Vosges Haut-Chocolat.

**The 'V' in V-Day stands for Victory, Valentine, and Vagina.**

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**About the V-Day Harlem 2002 Beneficiaries:**

**African-American Task Force On Violence Against Women In Central Harlem:** The Task Force is dedicated to eradicating violence against women in Harlem by bringing together all of the stakeholders in the community to develop a comprehensive community response. The Task Force believes that all segments of the community are touched by the violence inflicted upon women. To increase the community stakeholders, their work is implemented through strategies of advocacy, outreach, education, and technical support to community organizations, all of which are designed to address the problem of violence against women.

**The Dominican Women's Development Center:**

The Dominican Women's Development Center supports "Nuevo Amanecer" a domestic violence program which includes counseling, advocacy, a 24 hour hotline, crisis intervention, support group & law enforcement personnel training which addresses the particular needs of battered Latina women.

**Sakhi:** A community based-organization in the metropolitan area, Sakhi is committed to ending exploitation and violence against women of South Asian origin. When Mohammed Mohsin, a batterer, doused his wife with gasoline and set her on fire in September 1995, Sakhi was there to provide ongoing counseling and support for the survivor who spoke little English.

**Violence Intervention Program (VIP):** Located in East Harlem, VIP provides a dozen Latina and African-American families with safe dwellings in non-disclosed apartments after severe and violent encounters with spouses and boyfriends. VIP is providing technical assistance to the prosecution in the case of a prominent Latino activist who is charged with the brutal murder of his ex-girlfriend, Gladys Ricota, as she stood on her lawn on her wedding day. Through these efforts, along with counseling and advocacy, VIP has raised awareness and encouraged more women to seek help before it is too late



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**V-DAY,**  
**THE GLOBAL MOVEMENT TO STOP VIOLENCE**  
**AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS,**  
**LAUNCHES ITS V-DAY 2002 BENEFIT SEASON IN WASHINGTON, DC AT THE FIRST-EVER “V-DAY DC” ON THURSDAY, JANUARY 24:**

**V-DAY DC FEATURES PLAYWRIGHT AND V-DAY FOUNDER EVE ENSLER PERFORMING HER PLAY “THE VAGINA MONOLOGUES” AND JOINED BY VERY SPECIAL GUESTS AT THE NATIONAL THEATER**

*V-Day 2002 benefit events scheduled to take place from January 24 – late April include V-Day San Francisco, V-Day Harlem, and a V-Day Fundraising evening in NYC*

January 11, 2002 -- V-Day, the global movement to stop violence against women and girls, today announced the first of the V-Day 2002 benefit events, V-Day DC. On January 24, award-winning playwright and V-Day Artistic Director and Founder Eve Ensler will give a rare solo performance of her critically acclaimed Off-Broadway play “The Vagina Monologues” at the National Theater. V-Day DC will benefit groups that work locally and internationally to end violence against women and girls, as well as groups that are working with Afghan women: Ayuda, DC Rape Crisis Center, Empower, House of Ruth, My Sister's Place, Tahirih Justice Center, WEAVE, International Medical Corps, and Vital Voices Afghan Women’s Project. Some very special guests – to be announced - will join Ensler to perform some of the more recently written vagina monologues including “Under The Burqa” about women in Afghanistan and “My Short Skirt.”

On announcing V-Day DC, Ensler said, “It is no coincidence that V-Day 2002 will begin in Washington, DC, our nation’s seat of power. There has been a paradigm shift in our national consciousness, a heightened awareness of the leadership capabilities of women, and women throughout the world and in this country are now, finally, coming into positions of power where they will effectively solve some of our most pressing problems—like violence against women and girls.”

Immediately following the performance, Eve will lead a question and answer discussion session from the stage, accompanied by special guests of the beneficiary organizations on violence against women in Afghanistan as well as representatives who will discuss V-Day’s Congressional initiative with Lifetime Television to support legislation to stop violence against women and girls internationally.

V-Day DC tickets are available now and may be requested by email ([vday\\_dc@yahoo.com](mailto:vday_dc@yahoo.com)) or by phone (202.737.5942). Performance tickets are \$100 each. Tickets for the performance and reception are \$250; tickets for a pre-performance dinner, performance and reception are \$1000. Co-chairs for the evening’s events are Beth Dozoretz and Pat Mitchell.

\*\*\*For V-Day DC media access and ticket information, contact Bev Lindsey at V-Day DC at [bhlindsey@aol.com](mailto:bhlindsey@aol.com), (202) 737-5877. For interviews with Eve Ensler, contact Susan Celia Swan at V-Day at [press@vday.org](mailto:press@vday.org), (212) 445-3288.\*\*\*

V-Day DC sponsors include: General Motors Corporation, AOL Time Warner, BET Holdings, Inc., Donna McLarty, and Value Options.

Since it began five years ago, V-Day has evolved from one day - Valentine's Day – into a 12-week calendar of events and social action campaigns. From January 24 – April 13, 2002, more than 800 benefit productions of Ensler's play, "The Vagina Monologues," are confirmed in theatres, community centers, houses of worship, and college campuses around the world. In cities and provinces from Washington, DC to Shanghai, China; Harlem, NY to Nova Scotia, Canada; from Duluth, MN to Cebu City in the Philippines, an international chorus of voices will rise up to entertain and empower, as women realize V-Day's mission to stop violence against women and girls.

For V-Day 2002, dedicated V-Day performers, affectionately known as the "Vulva Choir," will adopt-a-city and appear at many of the local V-Day 2002 events.

- In NYC, Marisa Tomei, Jane Fonda, Isabella Rossellini, Rosie Perez and Ricki Lake are among the actors who will attend the Fundraising evening at the Hammerstein Ballroom in New York City on Saturday, February 16.
- V-Day Harlem is being organized by actors Lisa Gay Hamilton and Rosie Perez who will also perform. The full cast and details of the event will be announced shortly.
- Gloria Steinem will appear at V-Day South Africa in Johannesburg with local film and TV actresses.
- Rosie Perez will perform at V-Day Puerto Rico.
- Kathy Najimy will return to her hometown to participate in V-Day San Diego.
- Kathleen Chalfant will perform at V-Day Sacramento, V-Day Ojai and V-Day San Francisco.
- V-Day San Francisco will feature Jill Eikenberry, Lisa Gay Hamilton, Amel Larriex, Rita Moreno, Kathy Najimy, Rosie Perez, California State Senator Jackie Speier, Lily Tomlin, BETTY, Linda Tillery and the Cultural Heritage Choir, author Dorothy Allison, and Kathleen Chalfant, among others.

These are just a few of the stars who are slated to participate in V-Day 2002.

Throughout the world, V-Day benefits are shaped by their organizers and the local community. V-Day events range from 5000-seat theatrical productions featuring local stars, actresses and activists to 100 person 'rallies' in the town square. All V-Day benefits feature a performance of "The Vagina Monologues." All donate their proceeds to local organizations that work to stop violence against women and girls. Following is just a snapshot of a few of the more than 750 local V-Day 2002 events that will take place this year in cities and at colleges around the world:

**V-Day Drew University** (Madison, NJ, USA)

The university's first annual V-Day benefit will be an all-day event at the Baldwin Gym and Forum. Will include workshops and a performance of "The Vagina Monologues" by university actresses followed by the award-winning singing duo, the Indigo Girls. [Thursday, February 28]

**V-Day Klamath Falls** (Eastern Oregon, USA)

Presented as a rally and a reading of "The Vagina Monologues" in the community meeting room of the Klamath County Court House. Performed by local women with art exhibits, the presence of the local women's shelter, photographs of women. The beneficiary, Harbor House Shelter for Battered Women and Children, the local women's shelter which can accommodate about ten families, has been open for one year and maintains almost 100% occupancy. 10% of the proceeds will be donated to the V-Day Zeba Fund for Afghan Women.

**V-Day Gallaudet University** (Washington, DC, USA)

Gallaudet is a deaf university presenting its production in American Sign Language.

**V-Day Romania** (Targu-Mures, Bucharest, Constanta, Sibiu, Timisoara, ROMANIA)

Encompasses 5 local events in the different regions of Romania: V-Day Targu-Mures [February 13-14], V-Day Bucharest [February 16-18], V-Day Constanta [February 23-24], V-Day Sibiu [February 26-28], V-Day Timisoara [February 28 - March 1]. One of three local beneficiaries is the Center of Assistance and Protection for Victims of the Violence. Based in Bucharest, the Center is a governmental organization that provides medical activity, psychological help for victims, telephone lines for psychological and judicial counseling.

**V-Day Middleton** (The Annapolis Valley, Nova Scotia, CANADA)

Performed in a century old 125-seat Anglican Church by local women with full support of the minister, V-Day Middleton will also feature a day-long trade show in the Church hall with booths for local anti-violence groups, demonstrations, videos, a workshop, V-Day treats, and more. Beneficiaries are two local groups: Chrysallis House, a local regional women's shelter which serves the entire western part of Nova Scotia, and Coverdale, an outreach ministry providing support and specialized services to women victims of violence, young offenders and their parents. [Saturday, February 16]

**V-DAY 2002 NATIONAL EVENTS, CAMPAIGN INFORMATION**

V-Day 2002 benefits officially begin in Washington, DC on Thursday, January 24 and run through April 13. These twelve weeks of celebration and social action will encompass the following events, global campaigns, and grassroots initiatives:

**National V-Day events:****V-Day San Francisco**

On Tuesday, February 12, V-Day San Francisco presents a special benefit performance of "The Vagina Monologues" directed and performed by Eve Ensler with confirmed guests: Jill Eikenberry, Lisa Gay Hamilton, Ronnie Gilbert, Julia Butterfly Hill, Amel Larrieux, Janice Mirikitani, Rita Moreno, Kathy Najimy, Rosie Perez, California State Senator Jackie Speier, Lily Tomlin, music from BETTY, Linda Tillery and the Cultural Heritage Choir, author Dorothy Allison, Kathleen Chalfant and more at the Masonic Auditorium, 1111 California Street, San Francisco, California.

**An Evening at the Hammerstein Ballroom in New York City**

A gala, star-studded evening of dinner and performances featuring Jane Fonda, Cynthia Nixon, Glenn Close, Lisa Gay Hamilton, Rosie Perez, Cynthia Garrett, Swoosie Kurtz, Julie Kavner, Marisa Tomei, Isabella Rossellini and Eve Ensler will accompany the announcement of V-Day's 2002 awardees and Stop Rape Contest winners on Saturday, February 16.

**V-Day Harlem, NYC**

LisaGay Hamilton and Rosie Perez are co-producing and will perform at V-Day Harlem in late March. The full cast and details of the event will be announced shortly. "Celebrate, respect and protect the female body" is the mission of V-Day Harlem.

**Groundbreaking ceremony for V-Day Safe House on Sioux Sacred Land**

On April 13, a groundbreaking ceremony and event featuring Ensler performing "The Vagina Monologues" will take place in Rapid City, SD. The safe house is for Sioux women and girls who are suffering from domestic violence on tribal land in South Dakota.

**Broadcast debut of the HBO documentary "The Vagina Monologues"**

HBO's original documentary presents Eve Ensler in a solo performance of "The Vagina Monologues" and captures the intimacy of the play as it was originally conceived and produced Off-Broadway. Featuring interviews with Ensler and real-life female subjects combined with behind-the-scenes footage, the documentary will debut exclusively on HBO on Valentine's Day, Thursday, February 14, 2002 at 9:30PM ET.

**Grassroots and global campaigns:****The V-Day Worldwide Campaign**

Benefit productions of “The Vagina Monologues” are confirmed to date in more than 200 cities nationally and abroad to raise awareness and money for groups that work to stop violence against women and girls. For the up-to-date listing of cities, go to <http://www.vday.org/world>.

### **The V-Day College Campaign**

Much like the Worldwide Campaign, the College Campaign will bring benefit productions of “The Vagina Monologues” to more than 550 colleges and universities around the world in an effort to raise awareness and money for local anti-violence groups and empower young people - the leaders and activists of the future. Student organizers oversee the theatrical production from start to finish including casting, location scouting, ticket sales, publicity, and more. For the listing of participating schools to date, go to <http://www.vday.org/college>.

### **V-Day 2002 grassroots initiatives and social action campaigns include:**

**V-Day International Stop Rape Contest** produces innovative and effective strategies to stop rape worldwide - <http://www.vday.org/stoprape>.

**Speak Up with V-Day and Lifetime Initiative** brings the problem of violence against women in the United States to the attention of our Congressional representatives on March 8 – International Women’s Day - <http://www.vday.org/congress>.

**Rape Free Zone Campaign** encourages people all over the world to mark their communities as “Rape Free Zones” - <http://www.vday.org/rapefreezone>.

**Afghanistan Is Everywhere:** An action and fundraising campaign declaring on International Women’s Day 2002 – March 8 – that “Afghanistan Is Everywhere” to reflect that women around the world are joined in solidarity with the women of Afghanistan and to mobilize a worldwide demand for the implementation of the Brussels Proclamation issued by the Afghan Women’s Summit. Women worldwide identify with and understand the Afghan women’s suffering because the same conditions of violence, oppression, invisibility, and other forms of inequality that plagued Afghanistan are universal.

### **About V-Day**

V-Day is a global movement that helps anti-violence organizations throughout the world continue and expand their core work on the ground, while drawing public attention to the larger fight to stop worldwide violence (including rape, battery, incest, female genital mutilation (FGM), sexual slavery) against women and girls.

V-Day is also a day (on or around Valentine's Day in February), for which annual theatrical and artistic events are produced around the world to transform consciousness, raise money, and revitalize the spirit of existing anti-violence organizations. Each year, V-Day promotes a series of innovative productions, events and initiatives that are identified collectively as V-Day and the year (i.e. V-Day 2001, V-Day 2002, V-Day 2003...).

V-Day, a non-profit corporation, distributes funds to grassroots national, and international organizations and programs that work to stop violence against women and girls. In just five years, V-Day has raised over \$7 million and was recently named one of Worth Magazine’s “100 Best Charities”.

### **V-Day 2002 sponsors and marketing partners:**

To date, V-Day’s 2002 corporate sponsors include Fairmont Hotels and Resorts, Lifetime Television, Liz Claiborne, Marie Claire, and Tampax.

V-Day’s 2002 marketing partners include Eziba (V-Day’s exclusive retailer: <http://www.eziba.com/vday>), Karen Neuburger (V-Day pajamas), Sundari, and Vosges Haut-Chocolat.

The ‘V’ in V-Day stands for Victory, Valentine, and Vagina.

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